

Appendix Exhibit 4

1 ABBY B. CONLEY 1

2 - - -

3 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1
4 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 2

5 ABBY S. CONLEY, 3)
6 Plaintiff, Civil Div. 4)
7 vs. 5) No. 6) 05-CV-76-2
8)
9 COUNTY OF ERIE, ERIE COUNTY OFFICE 10)
10 OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH a/k/a ERIE 11)
11 COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICE, 12)
12 RICHARD SCHENKER, individually and 13)
13 in his capacity as County Executive 14)
14 of Erie County, Pennsylvania, 15)
15 PETER CALLAN, individually and 16)
16 in his capacity as Erie County 17)
17 Director of Personnel, DEBRA LIEBEL, 18)
18 individually and in her capacity as 19)
19 Executive Director, Erie County Office 20)
20 of Children and Youth a/k/a Erie 21)
21 County Child Welfare Service, and 22)
22 JOHN A. ONORATO, ESQUIRE, individually 23)
23 and in his capacity as 24)
24 Erie County Solicitor, 25)
25 Defendants.)

16 - - -
17 Deposition of ABBY B. CONLEY
18 Tuesday, September 6, 2005
19 Filed on behalf of Defendants
20 County of Erie, Erie County Office of Children
21 and Youth a/k/a Erie County Child Welfare
22 Service, Richard Schenker, Peter Callan, and
23 Debra Liebel
24
25 Counsel of Record for this Party:
26 Edmond R. Joyal, Jr., Esquire
27 WORDZ R US
28 1139 Oakwood Drive Suite 100
29 Jefferson Hills, PA 15025
30 Phone: (412) 655-1553
31
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2 ABBY B. CONLEY 2

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4 DEPOSITION OF ABBY B. CONLEY, 1
5 taken pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil 2
6 Procedure, by and before Debra D. LaGamba, a 3
7 Registered Professional Reporter and a Notary 4
8 Public in and for the Commonwealth of 5
9 Pennsylvania, at the offices of Knox McLaughlin 6
10 Gornall & Sennett, P.C., 120 West Tenth Street, 7
11 Erie, Pennsylvania 16501, on Tuesday, September 8
12 6, 2005, scheduled to commence at 10:30 o'clock 9
13 a.m.

12 - - -

13 COUNSEL PRESENT:
14 For the Plaintiff:
15 Timothy D. McNair, Esquire
16 Timothy McNair, Esquire
17 821 State Street
18 Erie, PA 16501
19
20 Anthony Angelone, Esquire
21 Vendetti Vendetti
22 3820 Liberty Street
23 Erie, PA 16509
24
25 For the Defendants County of Erie, Erie County
26 Office of Children and Youth a/k/a Erie County
27 Child Welfare Service, Richard Schenker, Peter
28 Callan, and Debra Liebel
29 Edmond R. Joyal, Jr., Esquire
30 Law Office of Joseph S. Weimer
31 975 Two Chatham Center
32 Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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1 For the Defendant John A. Onorato, Esquire:
2 Mark R. Lane, Esquire
3 Dell, Moser, Lane & Loughney, LLC
4 525 William Penn Place, Suite 3700
5 Pittsburgh, PA 15219
6
7
8 INDEX
9
10 WITNESS: ABBY B. CONLEY
11
12 EXAMINATION BY: PAGE:
13 Mr. Joyal 5, 391
14 Mr. Lane 329, 404
15 Mr. McNair 380
16
17 Conley Deposition Marked for
18 Exhibit No. Identification
19 1 78
20 2 129
21 3 162
22 4 230
23 5 238
24 6 257
25 7 269

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4 ABBY B. CONLEY 4

5 - - -

6 Conley Deposition Marked for
7 Exhibit No. Identification
8 8 270
9 9 274
10 10 292
11 11 through 20 292
12 21 295
13 22 118
14 23 124
15 24 336
16 25 338
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EXHIBIT

Tables*

App. Ex. 4

ABBY B. CONLEY

- - -

P R O C E E D I N G S

(10:39 o'clock a.m.)

ABBY B. CONLEY,

the witness, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

E X A M I N A T I O N

BY MR. JOYAL:

Q. Please state your name.

A. Abby Arlene Belinda Conley.

Q. Spell your last name.

A. C-O-N-L-E-Y.

Q. Ms. Conley, my name is Ed Joyal. We met a little earlier. I represent Erie County, OCY, Richard Schenker, the County of Erie, Pete Callan, and Debbie Liebel in a lawsuit that you brought against them in the Federal District Court of Western Pennsylvania, Docket No. 05-CV-76E. To my left is Mark Lane. He represents John Onorato.

Have you ever been deposed before?

A. No, sir.

Q. Ever testified in a proceeding where you've been placed under oath?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many times?

5

ABBY B. CONLEY

- - -

1 your shoulders. Everything has to be yes or no.
2 That makes it easier for Debi here to take
3 everything down. Okay?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And one other thing. Please try -- I
will do the same, but I'm very bad at doing
this -- usually when we have conversations,
people tend to finish people's sentences or they
interrupt. Let's try not to do that. Again, it
makes it easier for the court reporter.

What is your date of birth, ma'am?

A. 11/13/60.

Q. And where were you born?

A. Ridgway, Pennsylvania.

Q. Did you grow up in Ridgway?

A. I grew up in Arizona.

Q. Where?

A. Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe. I lived out there
most of my childhood.

Q. And are your parents still living?

A. Yes.

Q. What are their names?

A. Dr. Dan Conley, Sally Ann Anderson.

Q. Are they separated, divorced?

A. Divorced.

7

ABBY B. CONLEY

- - -

A. I don't know, maybe a dozen times,
approximately. I'm not sure.

Q. Now, do you know why we're here today?

A. Basically to ask questions.

Q. What we're going to be doing today,
ma'am, is what is a deposition. It's similar to
your testimony under oath. You've been sworn in.
I'm going to ask you a series of questions.
Mr. Lane may ask you some as well. These are not
to be considered marathons. If you need to speak
to Mr. McNair or Mr. Angelone at any time, tell
me. The only restriction on that is that if
there's a question before you, you won't be able
to do that. That's a Federal Rule of Court.
If you don't understand one of my
questions, please tell me.

A. Okay.

Q. And we will try to rephrase it so that
you do understand it. If you don't tell me you
don't understand a question and you answer it, we
will presume that you have answered it based upon
that understanding. Okay?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Most important thing that we have to ask
you to do is to speak, don't nod your head, shrug

6

ABBY B. CONLEY

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Q. What type of doctor is your father?

A. Psychologist.

Q. Does he still live in Arizona?

A. I believe he lives in California.

Q. When was the last time you were in
contact with him?

A. I don't know, about six months ago.

Q. Was that by phone?

A. E-mail.

Q. Do you e-mail your dad regularly?

A. Not too often.

Q. Do you have any siblings?

A. One sister.

Q. What is her name?

A. Colleen Ann Conley.

Q. Where does she reside?

A. I believe Colorado was the last I heard.

Q. You've not been in touch with her?

A. No.

Q. Can you tell me, have you ever been
married?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you still married?

A. No, sir.

Q. When was your marriage?

8

ABBY B. CONLEY

9

1 A. 1977 to like 1979.
 2 Q. What was your husband's name?
 3 A. John Gaffney.
 4 Q. Gaffney with one F?
 5 A. Two.
 6 Q. And where did you live?
 7 A. Out in Arizona.
 8 Q. Any children?
 9 A. One.
 10 Q. What is that child's name?
 11 A. Joshua Gaffney.
 12 Q. Where does Joshua live?
 13 A. Here in Erie.
 14 Q. Does he live with you?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. How old is Joshua?
 17 A. Twenty-five.
 18 Q. Did your marriage end in divorce?
 19 A. Yes, sir.
 20 Q. When was your divorce, in 1979?
 21 A. I believe '79 or '80.
 22 Q. In Arizona?
 23 A. Yes, sir.
 24 Q. Were there any allegations in your
 25 divorce of infidelity or things such as that?

ABBY B. CONLEY

10

1 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 2 Q. No?
 3 A. On --
 4 Q. Either party.
 5 A. I knew that he cheated on me.
 6 Q. That's it?
 7 A. Yeah.
 8 Q. Do you remember --
 9 MR. McNAIR: The question was, was
 10 that offered as a grounds for divorce in court
 11 filings.
 12 THE WITNESS: We just filed one of
 13 those, what is it?
 14 MR. McNAIR: Mutual consent.
 15 THE WITNESS: The easiest.
 16 BY MR. JOYAL:
 17 Q. Breakdown -- irretrievable breakdown of
 18 your marriage?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. Something like irreconcilable
 21 differences?
 22 A. Yeah.
 23 Q. Did they have in Arizona at that time
 24 what's called a no-fault divorce?
 25 A. That's what it was. I couldn't remember

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11

1 the term.
 2 Q. Do you have any, besides Joshua, your
 3 son, do you have any other family members that
 4 reside in the area?
 5 A. Yes. My father's side, Shirley Blumish,
 6 an aunt.
 7 Q. B-L-U-M-I-S-H?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Where does she reside?
 10 A. On East Fourth Street.
 11 Q. Here in the city?
 12 A. Yes, sir.
 13 Q. Anybody else?
 14 A. Cousins on that side of the family.
 15 Q. Can you give me their names?
 16 A. Peggy Zalinsky, but she got a divorce. I
 17 don't know her last name. Colleen Blumish. Sue
 18 Foster. That's it, in the area.
 19 Q. That's in Erie. What about in the area?
 20 A. I have an aunt and uncle.
 21 Q. Any other relatives in the counties in
 22 Pennsylvania that abut Erie?
 23 A. No. Peggy lives in Corry. I already
 24 mentioned that, Peggy Zalinsky.
 25 Q. That's it?

ABBY B. CONLEY

12

1 A. Yes, sir.
 2 Q. So that is the sum total --
 3 A. That I can recall at this time.
 4 Q. How about any other relatives that may
 5 live in Western Pennsylvania?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. Tell me a little bit, if you would, about
 8 your education. Where did you go to high school?
 9 A. Mesa High School in Mesa, Arizona.
 10 Q. Did you graduate?
 11 A. Yes, sir.
 12 Q. When did you graduate?
 13 A. 1978.
 14 Q. After Mesa High School, did you go to
 15 college?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Where did you go?
 18 A. To Trip Bible Institute.
 19 Q. Where is Trip Bible Institute?
 20 A. Marion, South Carolina, it's a
 21 correspondence course.
 22 Q. When did you do that?
 23 A. The last few years, 2001 to 2003; 2004,
 24 approximate.
 25 Q. Was that, you said a correspondence

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1 course?
 2 A. Yes, sir. It's a Bible school.
 3 Q. Is it an internet based --
 4 A. No, sir.
 5 Q. You just --
 6 A. It's a correspondence through the U.S.
 7 Postal Service. They give me my studies, I
 8 answer them, put them in the mail and the
 9 professor corrects them, sends them back with
 10 whatever, you know, corrections necessary, and
 11 that's it.
 12 Q. Well, when you say -- you mean, do you
 13 have to redo the work after they're corrected or
 14 is this for a grade?
 15 A. Reiterate, if he felt that something was
 16 worthy of reveal, but I carried a 4.0, so I did
 17 fairly well.
 18 Q. What type of degree did you get from the
 19 Trip Bible Institute? Do you have a degree?
 20 A. I have a master's degree in theology.
 21 It's non-accredited.
 22 Q. Non-accredited?
 23 A. Yes, sir.
 24 Q. Is this, if you know, does the Trip Bible
 25 Institute also ordain ministers or things such as

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13
 14
 1 that?
 2 A. Yes. I had a ministerial degree as well.
 3 They just simply teach the word of God.
 4 Q. And then at some point in time, there's a
 5 degree that you get or a certificate or something
 6 such as that?
 7 A. Yes, sir.
 8 Q. Is it affiliated with any denomination?
 9 A. No, sir.
 10 Q. So it's a non-denominational Christian, I
 11 presume, institute?
 12 A. Yes, sir.
 13 Q. Have you ever spoken to any of the
 14 professors down there?
 15 A. Via e-mail.
 16 Q. Via e-mail, but have you ever had a
 17 conversation with anyone?
 18 A. No, sir.
 19 Q. So when you get your work back, you get
 20 an assignment, you're supposed to do something.
 21 You send it down to someone, someone corrects it?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And then sends you back comments?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Is that the way it goes?

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15
 1 A. They editorialize whatever mistakes I
 2 might have made.
 3 Q. Under what circumstances would you have
 4 e-mail conversations with someone?
 5 A. If I had a question or a problem, need
 6 explanations.
 7 Q. Just that sort of stuff. Did you have a
 8 specific, for each facet, I don't know if that's
 9 the right word, I presume there were different
 10 courses that you take, for each course, was there
 11 an assigned professor?
 12 A. Not really sure. They would just send me
 13 lessons in the mail.
 14 Q. And then you would do your study, you
 15 would, I presume, write an essay or something,
 16 right?
 17 A. I did essays, I wrote up various things,
 18 research.
 19 Q. When they would send you your lessons,
 20 did you also have to do a test of some sort?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Was it a form test, or were they
 23 essay-type answers?
 24 A. True or false.
 25 MR. McNAIR: Can I ask how this is

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16
 1 A. They editorialize whatever mistakes I
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17

ABBY B. CONLEY

1 out whether it is or not.

2 MR. MCNAIR: I can't conceive of any

3 way it is.

4 MR. JOYAL: The more you talk, the

5 longer it's going to take. We do have seven

6 hours under the rules. I intend to use every one

7 of them if I need to.

8 BY MR. JOYAL:

9 Q. So they send you tests back where you do

10 true or false?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. These tests, do you do them in groups, is

13 there someone that proctors you and makes sure

14 you're not looking things up in your Bible or

15 whatever, or do you just do it on the honor

16 system?

17 A. They encourage you to look it up in the

18 Bible. There's no other ability to -- you have

19 to go through the Bible. That's how the course

20 is geared.

21 Q. So you have a master's in theology and a

22 ministerial degree?

23 A. Yes. My ministerial degree has expired.

24 Q. Why would that be? Why would a degree

25 expire?

18

ABBY B. CONLEY

1 A. Because they want you to keep up with

2 your studies. They encourage a continuum, the

3 concept here is that, you know, you never stop

4 learning.

5 Q. I understand. You have stopped with your

6 correspondence course with the Trip Bible

7 Institute?

8 A. I've taken kind of a respite right now.

9 Q. When was last time that you were involved

10 with doing any course work there?

11 A. Last year. I'm not really sure what

12 month.

13 Q. Do you remember when it was that you got

14 your degree, your theology degree?

15 A. June of 2004, June or July. That's a

16 guesstimate.

17 Q. Would it have been at that point in time

18 that you took your respite from the studies?

19 A. Yeah. I started looking at a thesis

20 subject. I have my thesis approved, my thesis

21 subject approved.

22 Q. Which is what, ma'am?

23 A. Denomination and religion is going to be

24 the subject matter.

25 Q. Does that lead to another type of degree?

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19

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1 A. A Ph.D., yes, sir, a doctorate in

2 theology.

3 Q. A doctorate in theology from this Bible

4 institute?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Have you had any other education after

7 high school besides the Trip Bible Institute?

8 A. Various trainings, you know, throughout

9 the course of my life.

10 Q. Well, we'll get into that in a minute. I

11 mean, any other course work at community colleges

12 or anything such as that?

13 A. I did take a course -- gosh, it's been so

14 many years now, I've taken a typing class at

15 Mercyhurst, and I took different classes

16 through -- they actually did like training, it

17 was a college course type training at Mesa

18 Association for Retarded Citizens and they

19 sponsored education and behavior modification,

20 mental development, values working in social

21 services.

22 Q. And how did you come -- you said the

23 Association of Retarded Citizens sponsored these

24 courses?

25 A. Yes, out in Arizona.

20

ABBY B. CONLEY

1 Q. In Arizona. How long have you been in

2 this area?

3 A. Since 1980 -- I want to say '85, '86.

4 Q. So you came when you were 25, 26 years

5 old?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. When did you take these courses out in

8 Arizona?

9 A. Prior to that, I would say through -- my

10 son was born in 1980. I don't know, '79, '80,

11 '81, '82.

12 Q. You used your son's birth as a benchmark

13 here?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is your son mentally disabled?

16 A. No. I just was very pregnant when I took

17 on that job and when you get to be my age, you

18 look at things in landmarks. I remember being

19 pregnant and -- yeah.

20 Q. I understand. Did you work for the

21 Association of Retarded Citizens in Mesa?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. What did do you there?

24 A. I was a residential manager.

25 Q. So these courses that they gave, or these

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ABBY B. CONLEY

21

1 trainings, were to help you do that particular
2 job, is that right?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Anything else in terms of training?
5 A. Just through, you know, my job, various
6 trainings, like, for instance, the office of
7 children and youth would have specific trainings.
8 There was always, you know, a higher education
9 type thing.
10 Q. Would it be -- maybe what we'll do, then,
11 is go through your employment history and you can
12 tell me for your jobs what type of training you
13 had. Okay?
14 A. (Witness nodding head.)
15 Q. We know when you were in Arizona you
16 worked for the Association of Retarded Citizens,
17 is that right?
18 A. Yes, sir.
19 Q. How long did you work for them?
20 A. Gosh, from -- I want to say '79 to '85,
21 '90. I don't know. I would have to -- oh, gosh,
22 that's hard. I was there for quite a while.
23 Q. Well --
24 A. At least six or seven years.
25 Q. Let me see if I can help you. You told

ABBY B. CONLEY

22

1 me that you came here in about '85.
2 A. Yeah.
3 Q. So does that -- did you work for the
4 retarded citizens organization, finish with them
5 prior to coming here?
6 A. Yes. I moved to New Hampshire first for
7 a small period of time, and then moved here.
8 Q. Where in New Hampshire?
9 A. Salem, Manchester. Actually, Salem was
10 interim. We moved to Hillsborough, a town in New
11 Hampshire, and then lived in Manchester --
12 Hillsborough, a town outside of Manchester, and
13 then Manchester.
14 Q. I understand. Did you have a job when
15 you were in New Hampshire?
16 A. Briefly I worked for an organization also
17 ironically enough called Manchester Association
18 for Retarded Citizens, it had the same acronym as
19 Mesa Association for Retarded Citizens.
20 Q. MARC, M-A-R-C?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. Did you do the same type of job, did you
23 do a residential program there?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. How long did you live in New Hampshire?

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1 A. A year, year and a half.
2 Q. Were you divorced at that time?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. You were with your son?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. And then you, after you left New
7 Hampshire, you came here?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Is that correct?
10 A. (Witness nodding head.)
11 Q. What was your first position of
employment here?
12 A. Upjohn -- actually, I bartended for a
13 while when I first moved here and then I worked
14 for Upjohn Home Health Care.
15 Q. What did you do for them?
16 A. Private health care for senior citizens.
17 Q. And your job duties were what?
18 A. Basically assisting them in -- whatever
19 manner they needed, cleaning, personal hygiene,
20 going to the grocery store, helping them pay
21 bills, basically life issues.
22 Q. Were you an aide of some sort?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. What was your job title?

ABBY B. CONLEY

24

1 A. Nurse's aide.
2 Q. Did you have any training in that by
3 Upjohn?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. What did they train you in?
6 A. Actually, I received training out in
7 Arizona. I received -- I forgot about that. I
8 received a nurse's aide certificate through Mesa
9 Community Hospital.
10 Q. And then how long did you stay with
11 Upjohn?
12 A. They ended up changing names, going to
13 Beverly Home Health Care.
14 Q. And did you stay with them?
15 A. For a little while, yeah, about a year
and a half.
16 Q. And then what happened?
17 A. Went to Human Development of Erie, which
18 is an organization, was an organization for
19 retarded people, too.
20 Q. What did you do for them?
21 A. I was a residential manager.
22 Q. How many years or months did you work for
them?
23 A. I don't know, five years.

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ABBY B. CONLEY 25

1 Q. Five years?
 2 A. Yes. Approximate. I should have brought
 3 my résumé. It has all the dates on it.
 4 Q. We'll just ask you for your best memory.
 5 A. Okay.
 6 Q. What were your duties as residential
 7 manager for Human Development of Erie?
 8 A. To administer medication, personal
 9 hygiene, assist in life skills, you know, social
 10 skills, vocational aspects. That's something
 11 else I did out in Arizona as well, in my capacity
 12 as a residential manager, just in management, it
 13 depends on the function level of the clients, but
 14 to assist them in all aspects of life, you know,
 15 life skills, values, vocational, those kind of
 16 things.
 17 Q. Now, my experience years ago with
 18 residential living for mentally retarded folks as
 19 well as people with cerebral palsy was that there
 20 was always a manager on site.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Did you live in the group home -- was it
 23 a group home?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Or apartment?

ABBY B. CONLEY 26

1 A. It varied. Out in Arizona, I was a
 2 manager of an apartment complex with higher
 3 functioning clients. Here in Erie, I managed an
 4 apartment for higher functioning clients and I
 5 also was a residential manager for lower
 6 functioning, and then the higher functioning, you
 7 don't necessarily -- I didn't necessarily stay
 8 there.
 9 Q. So at some clients, you stayed. Now, was
 10 that -- you slept in the facility?
 11 A. Yes, sir.
 12 Q. Where did your son stay at that point?
 13 A. He would stay with the babysitter or with
 14 me, depending.
 15 Q. And you weren't there five days a week
 16 sleeping over, were you?
 17 A. It varied. Their shifts would vary.
 18 Sometimes I would, you know, I would have to
 19 manage staff as well, so they would do relief.
 20 Usually I would work at it somehow that we would
 21 have two consecutive days off.
 22 Q. How many staff members did you have on
 23 average?
 24 A. That varied as well, too. There was
 25 three or four, you know, residential staff.

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ABBY B. CONLEY 27

1 There would be some people that would come in and
 2 do cleaning. It just varied.
 3 Q. Do you have an approximation of what year
 4 you left that position?
 5 A. That would have been in '90.
 6 Q. Why did you leave?
 7 A. Because of problems that I saw there. I
 8 came to work for the County.
 9 Q. Tell me, if you would, what problems did
 10 you see at Human Development of Erie?
 11 A. Corruption, and just the policies weren't
 12 being fulfilled and the staff there, we tried to
 13 form a union and the union ended up not going
 14 through, and we, you know, tried to do what we
 15 could to like help it out, and...
 16 Q. Help what out?
 17 A. Help out the stuff that was going on,
 18 like there was thefts in the group homes and --
 19 Q. Deaths?
 20 A. -- we told authorities about it, and they
 21 came in and the Department of Public Welfare
 22 caught them and set a provisional license and...
 23 Q. Let me back up a little bit. You first
 24 talked about corruption. Tell me what you meant
 25 by that.

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1 A. Corruption in the sense that it wasn't
 2 being ran the way it was supposed to.
 3 Q. Now, you were a management person there?
 4 Is that right?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And so are you saying that, when you say
 7 it wasn't being run the way it was supposed to,
 8 did you have any evidence that people were taking
 9 money that was intended for clients?
 10 A. Well, actually, it was a global concept
 11 that I wasn't -- I wasn't responsible for gauging
 12 that. The staff saw what they saw. I mean, they
 13 all worked in their perspective homes. It was a
 14 global consciousness, if you would.
 15 Q. I'm not -- I really want to talk about
 16 your piece of this, your knowledge.
 17 A. Okay.
 18 Q. So you were a supervisor or manager of
 19 various facilities or homes, is that right?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. So tell me what happened in your -- what
 22 your personal knowledge was that would lead you
 23 to tell me that one of the reasons you left was
 24 because of corruption.
 25 A. I'm sorry. I don't understand your

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1 question.

2 Q. Well, do you understand what the word --
3 define for me, if you would, what you mean by
4 corruption so that we all know what you're
5 talking about.6 A. Corruption to me is when there's a set
7 standard of policies, rules, laws, if you will.
8 For instance, stealing would be considered
9 something that would be wrong. So when someone
10 steals and the law says that you're not supposed
11 to steal, if you're stealing, that behavior would
12 be corrupt. It would be wrong. It would go
13 against the law or the policy that is
14 established.15 Q. And tell me some other things. Would
16 lying be considered corruption, as far as you're
17 concerned?

18 A. Yes. Absolutely.

19 Q. So tell me, now that we know the
20 definition that you're dealing with, tell me
21 what, in your experience, what personal knowledge
22 you had that there were laws being broken?23 A. That really wasn't up to me to -- I was
24 not -- I was not the mouthpiece of that. It was
25 collectively a group, you know, they came to me

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1 and we went to county council and told county
2 council and, I mean, I can't speak for all those
3 people at that time. There was just a lot of
4 complaints.5 Q. But, Ms. Conley, you were the one that
6 just used the term corruption, defined as
7 breaking the law. You said you weren't the
8 mouthpiece, but that people came to you with
9 complaints. Now, I presume that you were one of
10 the people who was a spokesperson for those
11 complaints?12 A. Actually, I believe there was 26 of us
13 that came forward and told county council our
14 perspective stories. I think, you know, like in
15 my particular category of vision, I can only
16 speak for what I saw going into a particular
17 foster home, there wasn't food, and we talked
18 about that, and subsequently the Department of
19 Public Welfare came in and gave them a
20 provisional license. The matter was cleaned up
21 as a result of what we did. We told the truth.22 Q. Did all of the 26 people that were part
23 of this leave the agency?

24 A. No.

25 Q. You left the agency.

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. When you say that you had this knowledge
3 of foster homes, were they in reality foster
4 homes?

5 A. I think they call them group homes.

6 Q. Well, you know the difference. A foster
7 home is something that has a precise definition
8 in county government, right? That's where a
9 child, someone is placed into a home?10 A. Yes, sir. If I said foster home, it was
11 a slipup on terms.12 Q. I just want to make sure we understand,
13 and the word is, you were talking about the group
14 homes.

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Or the residential apartment facilities,
17 right?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. Now, when you say you went into one of
20 those and saw no food, was that in the ones that
21 you managed?22 A. No, sir. When I was working in the
23 capacity of -- because, you know, I didn't just
24 walk in and become a resident manager. You kind
25 of work -- I worked as a staff at different groupWORDZ R US
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1 homes or what have you.

2 Q. So you started -- you didn't start with
3 this organization as a manager. Even though you
4 had the experience in Arizona, you came in and
5 worked as a staff person.6 A. Actually, I think what I did was I was a
7 residential -- I started as just a staff, went to
8 residential management, worked some more of the
9 homes as like a relief staff, and you can work in
10 different capacities, you're not just narrowed
11 down to one specific -- and I think I wrapped up
12 as a resident manager.13 Q. Now, when you went to county council with
14 your complaints, were you a residential manager
15 at that point in time?

16 A. Yes. I believe I was.

17 Q. As a residential manager, had you
18 observed any of these homes that didn't have any
19 food in them? As a resident manager, not as a
20 staff person.

21 A. Not in that particular window of time.

22 Q. Well, then, would it be fair to say that
23 as far as that particular allegation or
24 observation you made, that would have been
25 something that you made prior to your being aWORDZ R US
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1 resident manager?
 2 A. Yes. I knew that there was some
 3 consistency as far as, you know, what was going
 4 on. Staff talked to each other. We worked --
 5 even though we worked in separate homes, we would
 6 collectively come together constantly in
 7 different synopses for training, meetings, what
 8 have you, so it was kind of like the community of
 9 staff.
 10 Q. And did this community of staff, when
 11 these complaints were made, were there any -- the
 12 investigation was done, I presume, by the County?
 13 A. The Department of Public Welfare came in
 14 and, you know, saw what was taking place.
 15 Q. Now, do you know whether or not the
 16 Department of Public Welfare, when you talk about
 17 a provisional license, did they license each
 18 individual facility or did they license the Human
 19 Development --
 20 A. The H&C itself.
 21 Q. To do what.
 22 A. To provide residential treatment for
 23 developmentally disabled people.
 24 Q. Now, at any point in time were the
 25 facilities that you managed as a resident manager

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1 short of food?
 2 A. Absolutely not.
 3 Q. And at any time were any of the
 4 facilities that you were a staff member on short
 5 of food?
 6 A. I'm sorry?
 7 Q. Were any of the facilities that you
 8 worked in as a staff person, were they short of
 9 food?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And what did you do about that?
 12 A. We collectively reported it.
 13 Q. I'm asking what you as an individual did.
 14 A. Reported it.
 15 Q. To whom?
 16 A. To the supervisor.
 17 Q. And what happened after you would report
 18 it to the supervisor?
 19 A. I don't know. That's beyond my...
 20 Q. Job title?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Whose job would it have been to make sure
 23 that someone went shopping for food for the
 24 people in the facility?
 25 A. Residential manager, assistant manager.

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1 Q. And would this assistant manager and the
 2 residential manager go by themselves, or would
 3 they take a staff person?
 4 A. I don't know.
 5 Q. You don't know?
 6 A. I would assume.
 7 Q. You never went shopping?
 8 A. I did, but you're asking me what they
 9 did. I don't know.
 10 Q. Well, how many facilities did Erie Human
 11 Development operate?
 12 A. I believe -- I don't know. Maybe ten
 13 foster homes at that time.
 14 Q. And you were familiar --
 15 MR. McNAIR: Did you mean group
 16 homes?
 17 THE WITNESS: Group homes. I'm
 18 sorry.
 19 BY MR. JOYAL:
 20 Q. And you were familiar with how many of
 21 those group homes?
 22 A. Probably I worked at almost all of them
 23 in some capacity.
 24 Q. And other than what staff members were
 25 telling you in places that at that point in time

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1 you didn't work in, what other familiarity did
 2 you have with the facts? In other words, someone
 3 came to you and said, we have a problem in my
 4 facility, you were residential manager. Did you
 5 go and check it out, did you talk to the resident
 6 manager?
 7 A. That was not my capacity.
 8 Q. Well, let me ask the question this way,
 9 then: Would a staff person, let's just say a
 10 regular line staff person, if I can call them
 11 that, came to you and said, Abby, in my facility,
 12 this is going on. Now, you were a colleague on
 13 the same line of responsibility as that resident
 14 manager, weren't you?
 15 A. Kind of, yeah.
 16 Q. I mean, if I were looking at an
 17 organizational chart, there would be facilities,
 18 there would be resident managers, there would be
 19 assistant resident managers, and then there would
 20 be staff. And if we were talking about boxes,
 21 your name at that point in time would be in the
 22 resident manager's box, is that right?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. And you as the resident manager would, I
 25 presume, get together at a certain point with

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1 upper management to talk about the functioning of
2 your homes, is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So when you were told by a staff person
5 that a facility that was being managed by someone
6 else came up, would you talk to that person and
7 say, one of your staff people just came to me and
8 said there's a problem?

9 A. No, I would not.

10 Q. Why not?

11 A. Because that would not be my position.

12 Q. Were these not colleagues of yours, and
13 friends?

14 MR. MCNAIR: That's argumentative.

15 MR. JOYAL: It's not.

16 MR. MCNAIR: She's answered the
17 question.

18 BY MR. JOYAL:

19 Q. Did any one of your staff report your
20 home to anyone?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Are you sure of that?

23 A. I'm not sure of it.

24 Q. And if someone from your staff had gone
25 to another resident manager, would you have asked

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1 that person at some point and found out about it,
2 why they didn't come to you to speak about it?

3 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. Calls for
4 speculation.

5 MR. JOYAL: She can answer.

6 MR. MCNAIR: I didn't say she
7 couldn't.

8 MR. JOYAL: I know.

9 BY MR. JOYAL:

10 Q. Please answer my question. If someone
11 from your staff had gone to another resident
12 manager and reported a problem that they
13 perceived in your facility, would you have not
14 gone to that person, staff person, and asked why
15 they didn't report it to you?

16 A. How would I know if that staff person
17 went to that person? Are you saying that other
18 manager is going to come and talk to me?

19 Q. Right. You got wind of the fact that
20 someone from your facility had gone to somebody
21 else and talked to them.

22 MR. MCNAIR: And there's no
23 foundation for that. She has denied that ever
24 happened.

25 MR. JOYAL: She said to me --

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1 MR. MCNAIR: It calls for
2 speculation.

3 MR. JOYAL: She answered she didn't
4 know.

5 MR. MCNAIR: Right. There is no
6 foundation --

7 MR. JOYAL: Fine.

8 MR. MCNAIR: -- for that, you're
9 asking her to speculate. I'm objecting to the
10 form of the question because it calls for
11 speculation.

12 BY MR. JOYAL:

13 Q. You can answer it. If that had happened,
14 would you have gone to your staff person and
15 asked them why they didn't come to you to discuss
16 it?

17 A. Yes, definitely.

18 Q. Well, then, why did you not, when some
19 staff person from someone else's place came to
20 call you, why didn't you discuss it with their
21 boss?

22 A. I would go to my immediate supervisor.
23 That would not be within my realm. I would be --
24 that would be a coworker. That is not in my
25 capacity to confront them on how they're doing

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1 their job. If I heard something that was a call
2 for concern, I would go to my supervisor and
3 report it. I wouldn't necessarily talk to that
4 person about it. Why would I reprimand them or
5 approach them or confront them when I work in the
6 same capacity.

7 Q. Well, I wasn't -- you know, you're using
8 the terms reprimand, confront or whatever. I'm
9 asking it in this way. You would not approach
10 them and say, one of your people came to me as a
11 friend or colleague?

12 A. I suppose I would, you know, maybe under
13 the right circumstances, if I knew that staff
14 person really well. In the particular case,
15 Human Development, there were staff, they had a
16 large turnover rate.

17 Q. What about the resident managers as
18 opposed to the line staff? Did you know there
19 was a high turnover rate there, also?

20 A. It's not like I knew these people really
21 well. Yeah.

22 Q. How many times did you go to your
23 immediate supervisor to express complaints that
24 other staff people made about their managers?

25 A. Countless. It was a global reality.

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1 They had heard complaints, we talked about
 2 concerns, that was kind of ongoing. They knew
 3 that there were problems.

4 Q. And so you at that point in time, that
 5 was one of the first times that you had begun or
 6 done things where you were reporting what you
 7 considered to be wrongdoing. Is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So this would have been prior to 1990?

10 A. Yes. Around that time.

11 Q. So you would -- am I correct in
 12 understanding that you felt that at that point
 13 prior to 1990, when you went to work for the
 14 County, that you were reporting a wrongdoing of
 15 some sort of corruption, is that right?

16 A. Yes. It was wrongdoing. We had
 17 concerns. I think that if you have concerns, you
 18 need to bring them up. You don't remain silent.
 19 You talk about it and try to resolve it.

20 Q. But you used the term for me corruption.
 21 That's what I want to focus on. Did you believe
 22 that you were reporting more than concerns, that
 23 you were reporting some sort of wrongdoing or
 24 corruption?

25 MR. MCNAIR: I would ask you to be a

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1 little more specific.

2 Q. When you went to county council with your
 3 25 colleagues, did you believe that you were
 4 reporting some sort of wrongdoing by Human
 5 Development of Erie?

6 A. When we went to county council, I'm not
 7 sure if there were all 25. There were 20 some
 8 people that collectively had a meeting. I forget
 9 how many people went to county council, and they
 10 asked us questions and we told them answers. We
 11 saw what was going on, talked to them about it,
 12 they approached it. They thanked us for coming
 13 because if you don't know there's a problem, then
 14 you can't correct it. That was the theory at
 15 that time.

16 Q. I understand, and I commend you for that.
 17 My question to you, though, is when you were one
 18 of those people being asked questions by county
 19 council, you as an individual, because I'm sure
 20 you can't speak for the other people, did you
 21 believe at that point in time that you were
 22 reporting wrongdoing or corruption to the county
 23 council?

24 A. I believe it was wrongdoing.

25 Q. Now, you went to work for the County in

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1 1990?

2 A. Sometime after that, yes.

3 Q. What was your first position with the
 4 County?

5 A. Per diem, doing data entry, the 911
 6 center.

7 Q. Per diem means that you had a temporary
 8 position.

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. How did you get that job?

11 A. I applied for it.

12 Q. Do you know a person by the name of Judy
 13 Lynch?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When did you first meet Judy Lynch?

16 A. Mid '80s.

17 Q. Did you ever work on any of Judy Lynch's
 18 political campaigns?

19 A. Yes. After I was hired in the County, I
 20 did.

21 Q. After you were hired in the County. But
 22 you knew her before you got hired in the County?

23 A. I didn't know her know her. I knew of
 24 her, because I was involved in politics.

25 Q. My understanding is that you ran for the

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1 city council here in Erie?

2 A. I ran for city council quite a few times.

3 Q. How many times?

4 A. I would say six, seven. I lost count.

5 Q. You lost count?

6 A. Yeah. I almost got in the last time. I
 7 was elected in '94 to the Pennsylvania Democratic
 8 State Committee, and the Democratic party is like
 9 a family here.

10 Q. What year was that?

11 A. 1994 I was elected.

12 Q. Now, prior to that, had you and Judy
 13 Lynch, had you met each other?

14 A. We knew of each other, yeah.

15 Q. You knew of each other?

16 A. Really, in politics, you're not really
 17 friends, you're just associates.

18 Q. Sometimes there are friendships that
 19 build up in politics.

20 A. Sometimes. Politics is a different kind
 21 of reality.

22 Q. Well, I guess it depends on where you
 23 are, is that right, what city or what level
 24 you're talking about?

25 A. Yeah.

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1 Q. Because politicians do have friends.
 2 A. Yeah. That isn't what -- I didn't mean
 3 politicians didn't have friends. I mean that,
 4 you know, sometimes within the Democratic party,
 5 you can have, what should I call it; allegiance
 6 to a particular philosophy and, you know, if they
 7 support one candidate and you support the other,
 8 you know, they're opponents, if you have a couple
 9 Democrats running in the same race, then you
 10 become divided very quickly. So that's the
 11 nature of the beast.
 12 Q. Well, part of it is loyalty to individual
 13 people, correct?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. You become loyal, you may not be their
 16 friend, but you're always there when their
 17 campaigns are there, right?
 18 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 19 Q. So prior to your going to work for the
 20 County, you did not work for Judy Lynch's
 21 campaigns?
 22 A. No, I don't think I did. It was after --
 23 it was after I was hired, and I worked, you know,
 24 in a general capacity, not, you know, I wasn't
 25 stuffing envelopes. When she ran for Congress, I

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1 helped her.
 2 Q. I forgot to ask you, who was your
 3 supervisor at Human Development of Erie
 4 organization?
 5 A. Lois Schultz.
 6 Q. S-H-U --
 7 A. S-C-H-U-L-T-Z.
 8 Q. Did you have a, and I'm going to use the
 9 term, and I'll define it for you, I had a
 10 conversation with Judy Lynch some time ago on
 11 another case and she told me about how Erie
 12 County government worked and how people got hired
 13 and people were moved from one position to
 14 another. When you applied for your job at the
 15 911 center, that was in a county position?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Did you have a sponsor of any type, did
 18 you have someone that directed you to, that the
 19 job was open?
 20 A. The cork board in personnel.
 21 Q. So you saw that on the cork board in
 22 personnel?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. So had you gone into the courthouse one
 25 day and saw the position?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Did you have any acquaintances on the
 3 county council that you may have contacted to ask
 4 for their help in getting you that job?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. You didn't ask Judy Lynch for any help?
 7 A. No. She encouraged me to, once I left
 8 Human Development, because, you know, it came out
 9 that Human Development had major issues, she was
 10 very grateful in a sense, because at that time
 11 the MHMR part of government was, I don't know,
 12 like had a budget of 40, 41 million, and, you
 13 know, she said, you know, that I was right for
 14 coming forth. We all were right for coming forth
 15 and doing the right thing. Evil flourishes when
 16 good men do nothing. She wanted me to continue,
 17 you know.
 18 Q. Continue to do what?
 19 A. To strive and, you know, she said
 20 definitely apply for jobs, and she rallied behind
 21 me and supported me.
 22 Q. So the first job that you applied for in
 23 the county that you knew of was a data entry
 24 person for the 911 center?
 25 A. Yes, sir.

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1 Q. Were there no jobs in the Erie County
 2 Human Services organization that Ms. Lynch --
 3 A. I applied everywhere. I applied
 4 everywhere.
 5 Q. You said Ms. Lynch encouraged you to
 6 strive. Did you get the impression that she was
 7 going to be there for you, to help you, should
 8 you need her help?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And did you inform her at any time when
 11 you were applying for these various positions
 12 that you were doing that?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. So you were looking for Judy Lynch to, in
 15 effect, help you because she had encouraged you
 16 and thought that you had done the right thing.
 17 A. I don't know necessarily help as much
 18 as -- I think that there was kind of a kinship
 19 there that had sparked.
 20 Q. Kinship?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And so when you saw a job in an agency,
 23 you would contact Judy Lynch and tell her that
 24 you were applying for that position.
 25 A. No. Not necessarily.

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1 Q. I got confused. How would you and Judy
2 Lynch talk about these jobs that you knew about?

3 A. In the context, you know, I think we had
4 maybe two or three conversations that she wanted
5 me to continue. It was just, you did the right
6 thing, and she wanted me to, you know, not be
7 without a job, and encouraged me and she was
8 happy that we came forward. It was a stressful
9 time for everybody involved. County council
10 members did the same thing Judy did, you know,
11 they thanked us, if it weren't for us coming
12 forth and telling the truth, this agency would
13 have perpetuated at what it was doing. And
14 because of coming forth and doing the right
15 thing, they came in and everything that we had
16 told them, with an exception of one, I think,
17 allegation that was brought up, I forget how many
18 allegations there were, county council was very
19 pleased with the group and said we exemplified
20 what people should do under those circumstances,
21 and they did the same thing Judy did, you know,
22 don't, you know, don't be discouraged and, you
23 know, supported us.

24 Q. But I think you said some of your
25 colleagues stayed in their positions.

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. And you left yours.
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Did you resign or were you terminated?
5 A. I was definitely terminated.
6 Q. You were terminated by Erie County

7 Development?

8 A. Human Development, yes, sir.
9 Q. Did you sue them?
10 A. No. I would not do that.
11 Q. You would not sue them --
12 A. No way.
13 Q. -- for terminating you?
14 A. No way. It was a nonprofit organization
15 and the way that I viewed it is that those
16 clients that we want to help, that was their
17 money, and I would not sue someone -- we wanted
18 to help them, you know, and to turn around and
19 sue a nonprofit organization, you know, I didn't
20 even examine that. I cut the losses. I did the
21 right thing and I walked away.

22 Q. What was their reason for terminating?

23 A. I think it was pretty obvious, because I
24 told on them.

25 Q. Well, is that the reason that they gave

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1 you, they said because you told on them?

2 MR. McNAIR: You're asking for their
3 stated reason?

4 MR. JOYAL: Yes.

5 A. They just said they had gone through my
6 files at work -- I forget their specific
7 allegations. I really don't remember. They had
8 gone through my filing cabinets and basically,
9 you know, they were really angry.

10 Q. Well, did they say they found things in
11 your filing cabinets that shouldn't have been
12 there?

13 A. No. They said that -- I forget what they
14 said.

15 MR. McNAIR: She has already
16 answered the question. She doesn't recall.

17 A. I really don't recall. That was
18 something that was not -- they didn't like the
19 fact that I went to county council.

20 Q. Did they fire anybody else that went to
21 county council?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You were the only one?

24 A. No. There were other people after that
25 that systematically got the boot, and then the

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1 County -- the executive director, Lois Schultz,
2 ended up leaving her capacity.

3 Q. But my question was, at that time that
4 you all went to the county council, were you the
5 only person that they terminated?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Who else?

8 A. I don't remember everybody's -- I didn't
9 really stay in contact. I just heard that they
10 systematically went after the people that were
11 involved in going to county council, but then
12 shortly after that, the director was taken out,
13 and from what I understood, it stopped. But I
14 didn't work there --

15 Q. The firings?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How long were you at the 911 center?

18 A. Five, six years.

19 Q. Doing the same job all the time?

20 A. Data entry, and then I worked as a call
21 taker.

22 Q. As a call taker?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And you left that position?

25 A. When I transferred out and went to the

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1 health department.
 2 Q. Now, so your recollection is that you
 3 went from the 911 center to the health
 4 department.
 5 A. Yes, sir.
 6 Q. And you said five years. So that would
 7 have been like in 1995?
 8 A. There about, yes. Well, '96, maybe.
 9 Q. '95 or '96 you went to the county health
 10 center?
 11 A. I'm not very good at recalling dates.
 12 Q. That's fine. I'm just asking you your
 13 best recollection.
 14 A. Maybe it was after that.
 15 Q. Could it have been in 1998?
 16 A. Yeah. That sounds better.
 17 Q. So you were at the 911 call center for
 18 eight years.
 19 A. It was under that. I think I was per
 20 diem for a year, two years, and then that is
 21 where the difference is, because I worked per
 22 diem, and then I worked full time and then went
 23 to the health department.
 24 Q. Were you in a union?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. What union were you in?
 2 A. AFL/CIO, AFSCME.
 3 Q. AFSCME?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Was there a specific -- it was just an
 6 AFSCME chapter?
 7 A. 2666.
 8 Q. And when you said you transferred to the
 9 county health department, how did that take
 10 place? Did you bid on a job?
 11 A. Yes. That is the process.
 12 Q. Did you talk to Judy Lynch about that?
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. Did you make it plain to anyone or did
 15 people that worked in these departments know that
 16 you had a relationship or kinship with Judy
 17 Lynch?
 18 A. They knew I was in politics.
 19 Q. Did they know you had worked on her
 20 campaigns?
 21 A. I don't know.
 22 Q. You don't know? Do you know whether any
 23 one of these people, let's say in the county
 24 health department, when you were applying for the
 25 job, felt that, you know, you had the support of

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1 Ms. Lynch to get that position?
 2 MR. McNAIR: You're asking her if
 3 she knew how people in the health department
 4 felt.
 5 MR. JOYAL: I'm asking her if she
 6 knew whether they did or not.
 7 A. I have no idea.
 8 Q. Did you ever use Judy Lynch's name as a
 9 reference in your applications?
 10 A. I could have.
 11 Q. And that would be something in county
 12 government that people would do all the time,
 13 right, they would use politicians to help them
 14 get other jobs?
 15 A. Or people that they knew in the building.
 16 I could --
 17 Q. But you may have used the county
 18 executive's name to help you, right?
 19 MR. McNAIR: Object to that. It's
 20 vague and ambiguous.
 21 Q. You just told me you may have put Judy
 22 Lynch's name down as a reference.
 23 A. I may have. I don't recall.
 24 Q. At that point in time Judy Lynch was the
 25 county executive, is that right?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. She was the county executive for like 22
 3 years, wasn't she?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. So if you put Judy Lynch's name on a
 6 county application, people who read that
 7 application would know that you used Judy Lynch
 8 as a reference. Is that right?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And they would have then known that
 11 people don't just put Judy Lynch's name down on
 12 job applications, do they?
 13 A. I don't know.
 14 Q. Well, if you didn't know her, would you
 15 have put her name down as a reference?
 16 A. If I didn't know her?
 17 Q. Yes.
 18 A. No.
 19 Q. So you may have used Judy Lynch's name in
 20 your application to transfer to the county health
 21 department, is that right?
 22 A. Well, actually, the application, you only
 23 fill out one application. It would have been a
 24 bid form, and I don't see myself putting her name
 25 on a bid form, because there's not an allocated

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1 spot for that.
 2 Q. And you don't see yourself maybe having
 3 told somebody or making a call to Judy Lynch's
 4 office about that?
 5 A. No. I didn't do that.
 6 Q. What did you do for the county -- are you
 7 sure you didn't do that?
 8 A. I'm fairly confident.
 9 Q. What did you do when you went to work for
 10 the county health department?
 11 A. I was an outreach specialist.
 12 Q. What was that, what does that mean?
 13 A. Immunization outreach specialist.
 14 Basically went to different clinics to do
 15 vaccines for childhood immunizations.
 16 Q. Let me go back to your 911 job. Did you
 17 ever have any disciplinary action taken against
 18 you there?
 19 A. I believe one time one of my coworkers
 20 complained about -- I had foot surgery, she
 21 complained about me, I don't know, that I had a
 22 bandage on my foot and I was picking on it. I
 23 remember she filed a complaint, but...
 24 Q. You were picking on the bandage on your
 25 foot and she filed a complaint?

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1 A. The tape fell off and she was saying that
 2 I picked my foot.
 3 Q. So that was one complaint. Did they
 4 discipline you for that?
 5 A. Well, she just filed a complaint. It
 6 wasn't necessarily discipline. But I know that
 7 she complained.
 8 Q. Did anybody talk to you about that from
 9 the management?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Who was it?
 12 A. I believe Marianne Powers.
 13 Q. And was that the only time that Marianne
 14 Powers or a manager from the 911 ever had a
 15 conversation with you?
 16 A. One other time when I used the phone on
 17 my break, I was disciplined for that.
 18 Q. Personal use of the telephone?
 19 A. Well, it was on my break, but I used the
 20 wrong telephone is what the complaint was.
 21 Q. Anything else?
 22 A. No.
 23 Q. Were you encouraged by anyone at the 911
 24 call center to apply for that job at the health
 25 department?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. Were you ever threatened with termination
 3 at the county 911 call center?
 4 A. No.
 5 Q. Did anyone ever talk to you about
 6 inappropriate behavior?
 7 A. No. Not that I recall.
 8 Q. Not that you recall.
 9 A. No. Besides, you know, the lady that I
 10 worked with, you know, we had a discussion, but
 11 it wasn't something that it was about
 12 inappropriate, it was like two sides of the story
 13 and it was cleared up and that was it.
 14 Q. Tell me what was the story, what were the
 15 two sides of the story?
 16 A. She said I was picking my foot and I put
 17 a band aid on my toe. It was really small.
 18 Q. So you were back to the foot damage?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. I'm talking about, was there anything
 21 else?
 22 A. That would be qualified as inappropriate
 23 behavior, in her terms, but there was two sides
 24 to that story.
 25 Q. And you straightened it out and

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1 everything was fine?
 2 A. Yeah.
 3 Q. What year was that, do you know?
 4 A. I'm not really sure.
 5 Q. Was it at the beginning of your tenure or
 6 more toward the end?
 7 A. Toward the end.
 8 Q. What about the telephone incident, was
 9 that at the beginning, middle, or towards the
 10 end?
 11 A. Towards the end.
 12 Q. And how long did you work for the county
 13 health department?
 14 A. For a year.
 15 Q. Until 1999?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And --
 18 A. Close to 2000.
 19 Q. And were you always an outreach
 20 specialist?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. What was your boss's name?
 23 A. Shar B. [REDACTED]
 24 Q. Had you ever been disciplined or written
 25 up or counselled by Shar B. [REDACTED] or any of the

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1 other management at the county health department?
 2 A. No. Not disciplined.
 3 Q. Had you ever reported any of your
 4 coworkers for any violations while you were
 5 there?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. When did you start working for OCY?
 8 A. '95 -- I'm sorry, it would have been
 9 2000.
 10 Q. Did you go from the county health
 11 department to OCY? Or did you have a stop in
 12 between?
 13 A. I had a stop in between.
 14 Q. Who did you work for in between?
 15 A. I took a leave of absence.
 16 Q. Were you ever, during the time that you
 17 were with the county health department, did you,
 18 I believe I asked you this, and I want to make
 19 sure I understand your answer, did you ever
 20 complain about any of your coworkers' behavior?
 21 MR. McNAIR: When you say complain,
 22 do you mean lodge a formal complaint in writing?
 23 MR. JOYAL: Lodge a formal
 24 complaint.
 25 MR. McNAIR: Did she say to the

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1 boss, somebody is being a jerk today? I'm not
 2 sure what you mean.
 3 A. Yeah, in that case.
 4 MR. JOYAL: We'll do either way.
 5 A. I think that there were definitely times
 6 where I talked to my supervisor, if there was
 7 conflicts or problems. That is the nature of --
 8 I didn't file any official complaints against
 9 anybody.
 10 Q. While you were at the county health
 11 department, were you ever called to task or
 12 counseled or disciplined for inappropriate use of
 13 the computer system?
 14 A. My supervisor did question one day if I
 15 was using the internet.
 16 Q. Did anybody ever talk to you about
 17 writing things or generating either oral or
 18 written comments about coworkers' personal lives?
 19 A. Hum-mm.
 20 Q. No? Nothing like that, no one ever came
 21 to you and said that you were spreading rumors or
 22 gossip about them?
 23 A. I think that there was -- one of the
 24 nurses thought that I said something about her
 25 husband and it was not true.

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1 Q. Tell me who the nurse was and what you
 2 thought she --
 3 A. I don't remember her name. Linda
 4 something. And that I did something, and it
 5 wasn't me.
 6 Q. Was it Linda Herbert?
 7 A. Yes. That was her name.
 8 Q. That was her name. And was it about her
 9 husband?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. What was it that she thought you said
 12 about her husband?
 13 A. That he cheated on her.
 14 Q. And did you leave a message on her
 15 answering machine?
 16 A. That was Sarah Johnson.
 17 Q. You left a message on Sarah Johnson's
 18 machine?
 19 A. No. Sarah Johnson was the switchboard
 20 operator. That was definitely not on company
 21 time. Sarah was -- my father was here and they
 22 were, I guess, involved, and Sarah --
 23 Q. Sarah what?
 24 A. Sarah had been seeing my father.
 25 Q. What was the message that you left on

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1 Sarah's machine?
 2 A. I was really angry at Sarah, because I
 3 was like really depressed, and she basically
 4 reamed me out and, you know, that I shouldn't be
 5 depressed and, you know, making kind of like
 6 moral judgments against me and I was really taken
 7 back by the things that she said and, you know,
 8 who was she to make moral judgments against me
 9 when she is dating my father. She really made me
 10 angry.
 11 Q. Do you remember writing a memo that said
 12 if you see Sarah Johnson, kick her ass?
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. Do you deny writing that memo?
 15 A. I don't recall anything like that.
 16 Q. Was it Sarah Johnson whose -- so was she
 17 married?
 18 A. She was married, yeah.
 19 Q. Did you leave a message on her answering
 20 machine at home about something?
 21 A. That was the message, it was about my
 22 dad. She was dating my dad.
 23 Q. Was this in 2000?
 24 A. It would have been right before I went to
 25 OCY.

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1 Q. Let me strike that. Do you have a
2 recollection of being in the Erie County
3 Courthouse and telling people that Sarah Johnson
4 had given your father AIDS?
5 A. No, I didn't say that.
6 Q. Do you know --
7 A. That's not what I said. I was talking to
8 a union steward about it.
9 Q. And you mentioned Sarah Johnson's name?
10 A. Actually, the union steward brought up
11 Sarah Johnson's name.
12 Q. And did you make any comments that Sarah
13 Johnson had done anything either, like that, had
14 given your father AIDS or someone's father AIDS?
15 A. I said my father went to the health
16 department and had a test for AIDS.
17 Q. And this was in the context of his
18 relationship with Sarah Johnson?
19 A. No. That was, my father had to go to the
20 health department.
21 Q. Who did you tell that to?
22 A. To the union steward.
23 Q. Why would you have told something like
24 that about your father to a union steward?
25 A. Because I was talking to her in

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1 confidence and as a friend. I was really sad.
2 Q. Who was the union steward?
3 A. Mary Ann -- I forget her last name. Mary
4 Ann -- I can't remember.
5 Q. Did anyone ever tell you, did you ever
6 accuse anyone of having a lesbian relationship, a
7 supervisor and a staff person?
8 MR. MCNAIR: Are you asking, falsely
9 accuse?
10 MR. JOYAL: No. I'm asking if she
11 ever accused anyone.
12 MR. MCNAIR: I don't know what you
13 mean by that.
14 BY MR. JOYAL:
15 Q. Two women you worked with were having a
16 lesbian relationship?
17 A. No.
18 Q. Never did?
19 A. Not that I recall, no.
20 Q. Not that you recall. Do you have a
21 recollection of anyone ever coming to you and
22 saying that you had left a message on their
23 answering machine about them having an affair
24 that their husband heard?
25 A. That was Sarah.

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1 Q. Sarah Johnson?
2 A. And Sarah was definitely having a
3 relationship with my father. It really made me
4 angry.
5 Q. So your anger brought you to the point
6 that you called her house and left a message on
7 her answering machine?
8 A. Yes. She was not home or I would have
9 given it to her directly.
10 Q. Did you have any reason that you needed
11 to give it to her over the answering machine, or
12 could you have waited and given it to her when
13 you saw her the next time?
14 MR. MCNAIR: Asked and answered.
15 Q. That was a different question. Was there
16 a reason why you couldn't have waited to tell her
17 what you thought of her rather than leave a
18 message on the answering machine?
19 A. Not necessarily, no.
20 Q. Did you know at the time that she was
21 living with her husband?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. Did you know whether or not she had any
24 children at home?
25 A. She did not.

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1 Q. She did not?
2 A. Hum-mm.
3 Q. But at that point in time there was, you
4 didn't really care, you were so angry that you
5 just left it for anyone to hear, is that right?
6 A. I left it for Sarah to hear.
7 Q. And you knew that her husband heard it.
8 A. I didn't know that her husband heard.
9 That wasn't my intent to tell her husband. It
10 was my intent to tell her that I didn't
11 appreciate her put downs.
12 Q. Well, what did you say to your father
13 about all this?
14 A. I was pretty angry with him, too, because
15 their relationship wasn't exactly, I would say
16 under the radar.
17 Q. Well, so you believed that, what, was
18 there a moral issue for you at that point in time
19 that your father shouldn't be having an affair --
20 A. With a married woman. I have a real
21 issue with it. And in front of my, you know,
22 coworkers, it was extremely embarrassing to me.
23 Q. How long did this relationship last?
24 A. I don't know. Several months.
25 Q. Well, was he here working or was he up

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1 here visiting?
 2 A. He was up here living.
 3 Q. Was he working?
 4 A. I think that he worked at Gannon for a
 5 few months.
 6 Q. Is he a professor?
 7 A. Yeah.
 8 Q. So you left the county health department
 9 and went to OCY?
 10 A. Yes, sir.
 11 Q. And you went to OCY as a patient aide?
 12 A. Patient aide. They called it different
 13 names.
 14 Q. You were an aide to a caseworker,
 15 basically?
 16 A. To all the caseworkers.
 17 Q. To all the caseworkers. Did you work
 18 with each caseworker, or did you have a specific
 19 unit of workers that you worked in?
 20 A. Initially when we -- when I first started
 21 there, it was a -- the case aides were assigned
 22 to kind of like globally, and you would take
 23 certain cases out of a file. We were under a
 24 person named Bill Haine.
 25 Q. Let me ask you this: Why did you leave

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1 the county health department?
 2 A. Well, in lieu of the fact that my father
 3 was having an affair with a woman that worked
 4 there, I wasn't real happy and just really
 5 needing to move on.
 6 Q. Did you bid for this job, or did you have
 7 to fill out an application?
 8 A. I bid on the job.
 9 Q. But a bid on the job also entails filling
 10 out an application of some sort, right?
 11 A. The application is already on file.
 12 Q. Well, how would someone at OCY know that
 13 you had the qualifications to do the job that you
 14 were bidding on if you didn't have to fill out
 15 some sort of application that would indicate what
 16 your skill level was?
 17 A. Because I was already a county employee.
 18 The application is on file. So you just fill out
 19 a bid form and apply for whatever job it is.
 20 Q. As part of the bid form, would there be
 21 some place where you could put any additional
 22 training that you may have had since you had
 23 started working for the county?
 24 A. Yeah, because the bid form is --
 25 replicates what the posting says, like, I forgot

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1 the order of it, you know, like the basic
 2 qualifications, that you graduated high school,
 3 that you, whatever, and the categories just
 4 match.
 5 Q. So you bid in for a job. At that point
 6 in time, this was 1999 or 2000, did you use Judy
 7 Lynch's name at that point in time as well?
 8 A. I don't know.
 9 Q. You don't know?
 10 A. No. I didn't -- you don't -- there is no
 11 place on the bid form to do that. I don't think
 12 that there is. No.
 13 Q. Now, when you went to work for OCY, you
 14 were given some training, right?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And part of your training was they gave
 17 you a bunch of policies and things and told you
 18 what the policies were on confidentiality and
 19 things like that, right?
 20 A. Right.
 21 Q. Did they also tell you about things you
 22 could and couldn't say and who you could say them
 23 to?
 24 A. I don't recall anything like that. It's
 25 pretty general information, they kind of like

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1 have a packet, you go through and --
 2 Q. They have these policies and stuff in
 3 them, is that right?
 4 A. Yes, sir.
 5 Q. Now, let me ask you another question,
 6 because I'll get back, now that we have you at
 7 OCY, let me ask you this: Let me ask you some
 8 questions about your medical history.
 9 Have you ever been hospitalized?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. When?
 12 A. A couple times for, I don't know what
 13 year, lung infection, pneumonia, my depression.
 14 Q. And did your depression lead to
 15 psychiatric treatment?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Were you --
 18 A. Definitely.
 19 Q. Are you still treating with a
 20 psychiatrist?
 21 A. Not anymore.
 22 Q. Are you on any types of medication?
 23 A. None.
 24 Q. When did you first start treating with a
 25 psychiatrist for your depression?

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1 A. Around that time that I worked at the
 2 health department. It was just a series of one,
 3 two, three punches. My son taking drugs, you
 4 know, my father having that involvement, I was
 5 just really sad.
 6 Q. So you went to a psychiatrist?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Did you take a medical leave of absence?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Tell me about the hospitalization.
 11 A. They just, you know, talk to you about
 12 depression and try to get you back on board so
 13 you're not sad all the time.
 14 Q. Were you ever suicidal?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. Did you ever make an attempt to commit
 17 suicide?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. How many times?
 20 A. Twice.
 21 Q. Was that while you were at the county
 22 health department, or had you tried --
 23 A. Well, I was not on duty.
 24 Q. I'm not asking you that.
 25 A. It was over the weekend.

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1 Q. Over a weekend when you were with the
 2 county health department?
 3 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 4 Q. Is that right?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Had there been, you said there were two
 7 times. What about the first -- was that the
 8 first --
 9 A. It was all within the same window. It
 10 was within like 72 hours. I was very, very
 11 depressed.
 12 Q. You called people to tell them that, in
 13 effect, looking for help?
 14 A. Yeah. Well, no. I didn't -- I was very
 15 sad, very despondent. Got the help that I needed
 16 to get and...
 17 Q. Were you ever told by anyone at the
 18 911 -- the county health department that they
 19 felt that the quality of your work had started to
 20 deteriorate?
 21 A. Towards my -- towards the end, they had
 22 made, I don't know, they had made reference to
 23 not being real happy, because I was very
 24 lethargic and down and out. I don't remember the
 25 specifics. I was never written up or anything.

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1 They knew that I was suffering from depression.
 2 I told them everything.
 3 Q. And at any point in time, were you
 4 provided with medication for your depression?
 5 A. For a while, for a month or so.
 6 Q. Just a month or so?
 7 A. Maybe longer. I ended up getting off of
 8 it because it made me sick.
 9 Q. But were you counseling with someone?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. With a psychiatrist?
 12 A. Hanna, whatever his name was.
 13 Q. I didn't ask you this, I don't think, and
 14 if I did, I apologize: When did you first start
 15 your course work with the Trip Bible Institute?
 16 A. 2001.
 17 Q. 2001?
 18 A. Yes, 2001, 2003.
 19 Q. Prior to that time, had you been involved
 20 with the church?
 21 A. Not as much. That is really what helped
 22 me get better.
 23 Q. Was your involvement with the Bible
 24 institute?
 25 A. Well, just the study.

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1 Q. The church?
 2 A. Yeah, the church.
 3 Q. Did you have a church in Erie that you
 4 went to?
 5 A. Yes. I went to First Assembly and I went
 6 to Family Worship Center where I work now.
 7 Q. Is that where you work now?
 8 A. Yes, sir.
 9 Q. How long have you worked there?
 10 A. For the last couple months, June.
 11 Q. What are you doing for them?
 12 A. I'm setting up an after school program
 13 for inner city children. I'm the director.
 14 Q. What is your salary?
 15 A. Right now, 300 a week.
 16 Q. And is this the first job that you've had
 17 since your separation from OCY?
 18 A. I was working in Erie County Farms as
 19 well.
 20 Q. Erie County?
 21 A. Farms.
 22 Q. Farms. What is that?
 23 A. It's a grocery store.
 24 Q. And when did you start working for them?
 25 A. March.

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1 Q. Of...?
 2 A. 2005.
 3 Q. 2005?
 4 A. Yes, sir.
 5 Q. Before that. So from October, I believe
 6 it was that you separated, until March, did you
 7 have --
 8 A. Until September to March, I did not have
 9 a job.
 10 Q. And did you collect unemployment?
 11 A. Yes, sir.
 12 MR. LANE: What was the name of the
 13 church you're working for?
 14 THE WITNESS: Family Worship Center.
 15 BY MR. JOYAL:
 16 Q. Who is the pastor there?
 17 A. Pastor David Bemis.
 18 Q. At the other church that you went, what
 19 was the name of the pastor?
 20 A. Pastor Jack Reisner.
 21 Q. Were you ever affiliated with any
 22 Lutheran churches here in Erie?
 23 A. I think that I attended a wedding at a
 24 Lutheran church.
 25 Q. I'm talking about to go to the church as

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1 a member of the congregation.
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. I'm going to give you these, because I
 4 didn't have time to go through them all and mark
 5 them, but I have marked some stuff.
 6 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 1
 7 was marked for identification.)
 8 BY MR. JOYAL:
 9 Q. Let's start -- Ms. Conley, are you okay?
 10 Do you want to take a break?
 11 A. I'm fine.
 12 Q. This group of documents starts with
 13 Exhibit 1 through 1-I. I want you to take a look
 14 at those and tell me if you have ever seen them
 15 before.
 16 A. (Witness reviews document.) I can't
 17 recall that one. I don't remember seeing these.
 18 Q. Keep going.
 19 MR. McNAIR: You're asking her to go
 20 through 1-A to 1-F? Because I believe that's
 21 what you --
 22 MR. JOYAL: I thought I said all the
 23 way up through G --
 24 THE WITNESS: It's I. I don't
 25 recall seeing these at all.

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1 BY MR. JOYAL:
 2 Q. You know, when you started working at
 3 OCY, you were trained in the various policies,
 4 right?
 5 A. Actually, I was not. What happened is
 6 when I first started there, there was just such a
 7 shortage of help, I started the ground running.
 8 They had assigned me cases, I had training from
 9 another case aide on how to do dates of contact.
 10 It wasn't geared towards policy, it was geared
 11 towards case.
 12 Q. At some point in time before 2004, you
 13 had been told about confidentiality of client
 14 information and things like that, is that right?
 15 A. I definitely signed a piece of paper
 16 about confidentiality, but I don't remember how
 17 quick -- how close to my first day that was. It
 18 was somewhere in that window that I do recall
 19 signing, but I definitely did not get those
 20 packets.
 21 Q. But during the course of your employment
 22 in the first couple years, it was made clear to
 23 you what was the appropriate release of
 24 information and what wasn't, is that correct?
 25 MR. McNAIR: Can you be a little

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1 more specific? Who made that clear to her and
 2 what, and in what fashion?
 3 BY MR. JOYAL:
 4 Q. Your supervisors told you?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. Did anyone at OCY tell you that client
 7 information was confidential?
 8 A. I don't think anybody told me that. I
 9 just -- that's kind of a no-brainer.
 10 Q. So it was a no-brainer. You knew that
 11 you weren't supposed to be talking about people?
 12 MR. McNAIR: Objection. That is
 13 vague and ambiguous.
 14 Q. Do you understand my question?
 15 MR. McNAIR: I don't.
 16 MR. JOYAL: I'm not concerned about
 17 you. I'm concerned about her.
 18 BY MR. JOYAL:
 19 Q. Do you understand my question?
 20 MR. McNAIR: In what regard?
 21 Q. Do you understand my question or do you
 22 want me to rephrase it?
 23 A. I would like it if you would rephrase it.
 24 I think it's a little bit vague. I don't mean to
 25 offend you.

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1 Q. You're not offending me.
 2 Did any of your supervisors tell you
 3 about the confidentiality of client information?
 4 MR. MCNAIR: Asked and answered.
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. Did any of your coworkers tell you about
 7 the confidentiality of client information?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Did you, as an intelligent woman, know
 10 that that information concerning families that
 11 you were working with was confidential?
 12 A. I would think so, yes.
 13 Q. You would think so, or did you know?
 14 A. I would think so.
 15 Q. Okay.
 16 A. It's the nature of the business.
 17 Q. Of the business. You wouldn't be, in
 18 your prior job, walking around telling people on
 19 the street or people that shouldn't have access
 20 to information about your clients that were
 21 living with the Erie County Human Development
 22 Group, would you?
 23 A. I'm sorry. What?
 24 Q. Would you be telling people about clients
 25 of the Erie County Human Development Group?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. It was confidential information, correct?
 3 A. It would -- yeah. I just wouldn't do
 4 that. It's just professional conduct, I suppose.
 5 Q. You suppose. Did anyone ever tell you in
 6 any of your other jobs with the MARC agency or
 7 with Erie County Development that it was against
 8 the law to reveal information, personal
 9 information, about people?
 10 MR. MCNAIR: Object. There's no
 11 foundation for that.
 12 Q. You can answer.
 13 A. Against the law?
 14 Q. Yes.
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. Did anyone at OCY or in the state tell
 17 you that it was against the law?
 18 A. No.
 19 Q. To release --
 20 A. Not that I recall, no.
 21 Q. Not that you recall?
 22 A. No, sir.
 23 Q. So your recollection is, Ms. Conley, as
 24 we sit here today, that the policies that have
 25 been marked Exhibit 1 through Exhibit 1-L, you

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1 were never trained in those policies, nor anyone
 2 ever told you about those policies?
 3 A. I think that there's just a kind of
 4 global concept and understanding that it's
 5 confidential. I never received training. I was
 6 never specifically told. Just so you understand,
 7 OCY was very busy.
 8 Q. I understand that, ma'am. Would it be
 9 fair to say that when you applied for your job at
 10 OCY, you had no social work training whatsoever?
 11 A. No. I definitely -- well, it depends on
 12 what you mean by social work experience.
 13 Q. That wasn't my question. My question was
 14 training. Did you have a degree in social work?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. Did you have any courses in social work?
 17 Theory or anything else?
 18 A. I had lots of training in social work.
 19 Q. Well, let me ask you what the training
 20 was. Did you have training in how to evaluate a
 21 family at risk?
 22 A. No.
 23 Q. Did you have any training in terms of how
 24 to determine whether or not a parent exhibited
 25 good parenting skills?

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1 A. I had training through staff and
 2 first-hand accounts like on-the-job training, a
 3 caseworker would say, this is what we're looking
 4 for, this is what qualifies as appropriate
 5 behavior, you know.
 6 Q. But you were not trained, and I think you
 7 readily admitted under oath in court that you had
 8 no training at all in that type of thing in order
 9 for you to give an opinion?
 10 A. I think what I said in court is I'm not
 11 qualified to do case management, and I'm not.
 12 Q. And you're not qualified to give an
 13 opinion as to whether or not someone is acting
 14 appropriately, is that right?
 15 A. Acting appropriately?
 16 Q. Yes, as a parent.
 17 A. Well, you know, if a parent comes in to a
 18 visit and let's say is oblivious to what their
 19 child is doing and just kind of sits in the
 20 corner and nods, you know, paying attention to
 21 their child, that would, you know, be considered
 22 as not really being paying attention to their
 23 kid.
 24 Q. Ma'am, I'm going to read to you a
 25 transcript from a hearing on July 28, 2004.

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1 There was a question asked of you, if
 2 anybody has -- I think the transcript is there,
 3 Tim, page 80, it said, this was a conversation,
 4 these were questions, I'll set the stage, about
 5 your summaries.

6 The question was, on page 80, starting at
 7 line 10, "Did she ever say anything to you about
 8 the nature of opinions, whether they were
 9 accurate or whether she wanted them to be the
 10 agency's opinion?"

11 And your answer was, "Well, essentially I
 12 think it was agreed upon that in my capacity I'm
 13 not really qualified. I'm not educated in social
 14 services, my education is through something else,
 15 and it's not really my role to issue opinions or
 16 judgments against the families that I work with.
 17 My job simply and humbly is to..."

18 MR. MCNAIR: Can I ask you what page
 19 of the transcript you're on?

20 MR. JOYAL: Page 80.

21 MR. MCNAIR: That language does not
 22 appear in the copy you gave me.

23 MR. JOYAL: It sure does. Line 10.

24 BY MR. JOYAL:

25 Q. "...facilitate visits and to make

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1 documentations of the observations that I have.
 2 So really, my opinion in any case is -- really
 3 has no weight. That's just the nature of my
 4 position at Children's Services."

5 Do you remember saying that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Let's go to page 81, starting at line 9.

8 MR. MCNAIR: Take your time and read
 9 through that.

10 Q. "What was difference about this case, if
 11 you can tell?"

12 Your answer was, "Well, just that I'm
 13 reminded of my position at OCY, that I'm not
 14 qualified to have an opinion or to necessarily
 15 state those opinions. It's my job to
 16 facilitate."

17 Do you remember saying that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So in answer to my question, then, you
 20 were not trained in social work, you're not
 21 educated in social work, and you admitted on
 22 July 28th of 2004 that your opinions as to
 23 parenting skills, you're not qualified to make
 24 those?

25 MR. MCNAIR: The transcript speaks

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1 for itself. She admitted to making those
 2 statements. To the extent you're asking for some
 3 kind of conclusion, I don't think you have a
 4 foundation for that.

5 A. I'm not a caseworker.

6 Q. What did you mean by that, ma'am, when
 7 you said my opinions don't really matter?

8 A. When you're managing a case and you're
 9 going to Court and you have to do the things that
 10 caseworkers do, I don't work in that capacity. I
 11 work as a case aide, and in my capacity as a case
 12 aide, I am able to share my impressions based on
 13 observations. And even as a case aide, in the
 14 Court summary that we have, there's actually a
 15 template that says in the bottom paragraph, each
 16 case aide has to fill them out, impressions and
 17 observations. So, if I were to liken it to a car
 18 accident, for instance, you don't need to be
 19 qualified to look at something such as a car
 20 accident. If someone simply bends a fender, that
 21 would be a moderate accident. If somebody went
 22 flying out of that car and was ejected, that
 23 would be more severe. So there's different
 24 levels of, you know, was it bad, good, or
 25 indifferent.

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1 So in that term, I'm qualified in its
 2 simplicity. What I'm saying in this particular
 3 case is that I'm not going to get up and say
 4 whether or not a child, you know, should go home
 5 or not. That's not the role of even the
 6 caseworker. You simply submit the facts to the
 7 judge and the judge makes the decision.

8 Q. The judge makes the judgment. And you
 9 would --

10 A. That's what I'm getting at.

11 MR. MCNAIR: Would you let her
 12 finish her answer?

13 MR. JOYAL: Sorry. I apologize.

14 A. That is essentially what I'm talking
 15 about. What I'm trying to strike home, I'm the
 16 one that did the majority of those visits, so,
 17 you know, you don't need a degree to share an
 18 observation, whether or not a parent did a good
 19 job or a bad job.

20 If a parent is not paying attention to
 21 their child and they're despondent and not paying
 22 attention and the child falls down in the course
 23 of that visit, that is not appropriate parenting.

24 Q. But on the other hand, that is an
 25 observation, right? You would make an

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1 observation that said the parent did not respond
2 when the child fell down. That is like your car
3 accident.

4 MR. McNAIR: Are you arguing with
5 her past answer? That's not what she said.

6 MR. JOYAL: That is my question.

7 A. We are actually asked to give our
8 opinion, our observations, right on the template
9 for the Court summary itself, so in one sense I'm
10 qualified in that aspect. What I'm trying to
11 define for you is that it's not up to me to say
12 whether or not a child should go home or stay
13 within the system. What I was getting at --

14 Q. Ms. Conley, when that testimony was being
15 given, this had to do with your testimony
16 concerning a summary that had been provided that
17 you alleged was changed by your supervisor in
18 sort of violation of something, right?

19 MR. McNAIR: I don't think. Wait a
20 minute.

21 MR. JOYAL: Were you there?

22 MR. McNAIR: I read the transcript.
23 She didn't allege there was any violation of
24 policy.

25 MR. JOYAL: Were you there?

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1 BY MR. JOYAL:
2 Q. Did you suggest to the Court that your
3 summary had been changed without your knowledge?

4 MR. McNAIR: Stated as a fact.

5 A. There's no question that it was.

6 Q. And at other points in time prior to
7 July 28 of 2004, had words in your summary been
8 deleted with your knowledge?

9 MR. McNAIR: Object to the
10 foundation. Are you asking if under similar
11 circumstances, or similar in scope?

12 A. There's too many variables.

13 Q. Let's stop here.

14 A. I want to answer your question.

15 Q. I'll withdraw the question and go back to
16 something else. We'll get to this in another
17 context.

18 You've testified to me that to you, it
19 was sort of, I think I used your word, a
20 no-brainer that information concerning clients
21 was confidential, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you understand under that
24 confidentiality that there were certain people in
25 certain agencies that could gain access and you

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1 could tell about these clients, is that right?

2 A. There were professional relationships
3 through secondary -- I mean, there is CASA
4 workers, there is Project First Step, Family
5 Services, there's other organizations that are
6 assigned to the case that are involved in the
7 case that have access to case files and notes and
8 what have you, where, you know, we would have
9 round table discussions with people.

10 Q. And sometimes, those were people who had
11 some professional involvement with the case,
12 right?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Prior to September 10, 2004, had you ever
15 been advised of Title 55 of the Public Welfare
16 Act? Specifically Section 3130.44, which dealt
17 with the confidentiality of family records?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Well, let me quote a part for you, okay?

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. This is Statute 3130.44, Confidentiality
22 of Family Case Records, and this is part A.
23 "Information that may be used to identify the
24 child or the parents by name or address, and
25 information contained in the case record, is

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1 confidential. A staff person may not disclose or
2 make use of information concerning the child or
3 the parents other than in the course of the
4 performance of his duties."

5 Did you know that?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Would you say that release of that
8 information under that statute would be against
9 the law?

10 A. If that is what it states.

11 Q. It states, "A staff person may not
12 disclose or make use of information concerning
13 the child or the parents other than in the course
14 of the performance of his duties."

15 That's a legal prohibition, is that not,
16 do you understand that?

17 MR. McNAIR: I don't believe that is
18 the end of it, in its entirety.

19 MR. JOYAL: I'll go through the
20 whole thing.

21 BY MR. JOYAL:
22 Q. "Federal authorities, the Commonwealth
23 and the Department or respective authorized
24 agents officially charged with administrative
25 supervision, review, evaluation or audit

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1 responsibilities may have access to and the right
 2 to use information identifying applicants for and
 3 recipients of children and youth services. The
 4 information shall be necessary to carry out the
 5 mandated functions of the agency and may not be
 6 protected by a specific law, such as 23 Pa.C.S.
 7 Section 6301-6384 (relating to the Child
 8 Protective Services Law.)
 9 (c) Members of the administrative review
 10 panels, volunteers, another county agency and
 11 other providers of services to children and
 12 families who are accepted for service by the
 13 county agency may have access to and the right to
 14 use information identifying recipients of
 15 children and youth services. The amount and type
 16 of information to be released shall be determined
 17 by the county agency and shall be limited to
 18 information needed by the service provider to
 19 carry out its responsibilities. The decision to
 20 release information shall be based on the county
 21 agency's assessment of the individual case record
 22 and the responsibilities of a service provider.
 23 Information released may include part or all of
 24 the case record.
 25 (d) Information contained in case records

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1 shall be released upon request to:
 2 (1) Parents and legal guardians.
 3 (2) Children's and parents' attorneys.
 4 (3) The court and court staff.
 5 (4) County executive officers.
 6 (5) The child, if 14 years of age or
 7 older. The county agency may withhold
 8 information from a child which it has reason to
 9 believe it will be harmful to the child. The
 10 basis for withholding information from a child
 11 shall be recorded in the child's case record.
 12 (e) Information in case records may not
 13 be released to a person or agency other than
 14 those specified in subsections (b)-(d) without
 15 prior authorization of the court.
 16 (f) Information from a case record may be
 17 made available only if the information released
 18 does not contain material which violates the
 19 right to privacy of another individual or is
 20 protected or made confidential by law. This may
 21 not be construed to protect the right to privacy
 22 of a county agency employee.
 23 (g) Except as limited by subsection (h),
 24 the county agency may use or authorize the use of
 25 information contained in the case records for

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1 teaching or research, if the teaching or research
 2 does not include names or other information which
 3 may directly or indirectly identify persons
 4 involved in the case. The county agency
 5 administrator shall approve or disapprove, in
 6 writing, requests from persons not employed by
 7 the county agency who wish to use agency case
 8 records for teaching or research purposes.
 9 (h) To the extent that information
 10 contained in the family case record is protected
 11 by 23 Pa.C.S. Part III (relating to the Adoption
 12 Act), 23 Pa.C.S. Section 6301-6384 (relating to the
 13 Child Protective Service Law) and Chapter
 14 3490 (relating to protective services), access to
 15 and release of information shall be under the
 16 statutes and regulations."

17 Okay? You're not the county agency, were
 18 you?
 19 A. No, sir.
 20 Q. You never were the county agency
 21 administrator, were you?
 22 A. No.
 23 Q. You were never given the authority under
 24 this law to release any information, as far as
 25 you just heard, about any family member, is that

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1 right?
 2 MR. McNAIR: I think it refers to
 3 disclose or use. Disclose or make use of.
 4 MR. JOYAL: Fine.
 5 BY MR. JOYAL:
 6 Q. We'll use the word disclose, not release.
 7 You were not authorized to disclose any
 8 information under this law, were you, as an
 9 individual employee?
 10 MR. McNAIR: Object to the extent
 11 you're asking for a legal conclusion.
 12 BY MR. JOYAL:
 13 Q. Fine. You can answer if you know.
 14 A. I don't. I'm not really sure.
 15 Q. You do know what may not disclose means,
 16 right?
 17 A. Right.
 18 Q. You know what or make use of information
 19 means, right? What does that mean to you?
 20 A. I think it should not be brought up for
 21 public consumption.
 22 Q. And it shouldn't go to anybody other than
 23 the people this law says it can go to, right?
 24 A. Correct.
 25 MR. McNAIR: And again, it refers

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1 specifically to identities.

2 MR. JOYAL: Is that an objection?

3 MR. McNAIR: I'm trying to clarify

4 for the witness's benefit.

5 MR. JOYAL: You're not going to do

6 these clarifications for the witness. That's

7 against the Federal rules. It's like a talking

8 objection. You don't get to do that. If you're

9 objecting, object.

10 MR. McNAIR: I'm objecting to you

11 representing the contents of the statute that you

12 just read. The statute -- and the grounds for

13 the objection is that the statute refers

14 specifically to disclosure of identity of people

15 receiving services.

16 MR. JOYAL: No. It says the person

17 or the child. We won't quibble over that,

18 Mr. McNair.

19 BY MR. JOYAL:

20 Q. Let's go to 55 Pa. Code Section 3490.242

21 which deals with confidentiality of children,

22 youth and family records. Confidentiality.

23 "Information obtained by the county agency or

24 Department in connection with general protective

25 services may only be released as follows:

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1 (1) Under Section 3130.44 (relating to

2 confidentiality of family case records).

3 (2) To another county agency.

4 (3) To an official of an agency of

5 another state that performs general protective

6 services analogous to those services performed by

7 county agencies or the Department in the course

8 of the official's duties."

9 And that's the end of that. Do you

10 understand what that means, Ms. Conley?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What does that mean to you?

13 A. That means those are the categories of

14 people in which you can --

15 Q. Release information?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. And that release, and that says

18 "Information obtained by the county agency or

19 Department in connection with general protective

20 services may only be released as follows:"

21 correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So there's a group of people in -- what

24 are protective services, as far as you're

25 concerned? Is that foster care?

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1 A. Anybody in the system that we're

2 protecting.

3 Q. Right. Children?

4 A. Children.

5 Q. Even family members, right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Could be adults at some point. So

8 anybody in protective services, this information

9 gets obtained by the county, can't be released

10 except to these people, is that right?

11 A. (Witness nodding head.)

12 Q. Right?

13 A. According to that paper, yes.

14 Q. According to the statute?

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Okay. I'm going to read you another

17 statute, ma'am, and this one has to do with 23

18 Pa.C.S.A Section 6349. This is a penalty

19 section. This has to do with domestic relations,

20 abuse of family, Chapter 63, Child Protective

21 Services related here as well. And the first

22 section, I'll show it to Mr. McNair, only has to

23 do with failing to expunge certain information

24 about child abuse. So I won't read that part

25 into the record.

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1 MR. McNAIR: Let me object to this,

2 relevance and foundation. There's absolutely --

3 THE WITNESS: May I see it?

4 MR. JOYAL: Relevance and

5 foundation?

6 MR. McNAIR: Yes.

7 MR. JOYAL: One of your allegations

8 in this complaint was that she was constructively

9 discharged by threat of criminal prosecution.

10 MR. McNAIR: Yes.

11 MR. JOYAL: That was the criminal

12 statute. I'll go in --

13 MR. McNAIR: Right. There is no

14 foundation that she violated that statute.

15 MR. JOYAL: We'll get to that, I'm

16 sure.

17 MR. McNAIR: Let's get to that

18 before you start accusing her.

19 MR. JOYAL: We'll get to it in these

20 exhibits that will follow. Okay.

21 BY MR. JOYAL:

22 Q. By the way, one of the lawyers that was

23 involved in the B. case was a woman by the

24 name of Amy Johnson?

25 A. Jones.

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1 Q. Jones. Is it Amy Jones?
 2 A. B [REDACTED]
 3 Q. B [REDACTED] yes. W [REDACTED] B [REDACTED]
 4 A. Oh --
 5 Q. Amy Jones represented --
 6 A. I wasn't on the B [REDACTED] part of the case.
 7 Q. No, but you had -- you knew W [REDACTED]
 8 [REDACTED]
 9 A. Right. But there was --
 10 Q. The other kids, right, and you had access
 11 to her files, W [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] case files, is that
 12 right?
 13 A. I could have access to it, but that's
 14 not --
 15 Q. We'll get to that. Isn't it true that
 16 Ms. Jones is a member of Mr. Angelone's law firm?
 17 A. I believe so.
 18 Q. Let's just read into, you read this, so
 19 we'll go to Section B. Penalties, "Unauthorized
 20 release of Information. -- A person who willfully
 21 releases or permits the release of any
 22 information contained in the pending complaint
 23 file," this is about family and child abuse, "the
 24 Statewide central register or county agency
 25 records required by this chapter to persons or

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1 agencies not permitted by this chapter to receive
 2 that information commits a misdemeanor of the
 3 third degree. Law enforcement agencies shall
 4 insure the confidentiality and security of
 5 information under this chapter. A person,
 6 including an employee of a law enforcement
 7 agency, who violates the provisions of this
 8 subsection shall, in addition to other civil or
 9 criminal penalties provided by law, be denied
 10 access to the information provided under this
 11 chapter."

12 Again, you read this. This has to do
 13 with domestic relations and abuse of family,
 14 which is child abuse, right?

15 MR. McNAIR: Has to do with pending
 16 complaints.

17 MR. JOYAL: Is that an objection or
 18 are you deciding you want to testify?

19 MR. McNAIR: I'm objecting to you
 20 misrepresenting the statute to our client again.

21 MR. JOYAL: I read it. Apparently
 22 you haven't.

23 MR. McNAIR: You misrepresented what
 24 it said.

25 MR. JOYAL: Is the noted domestic

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1 relations family abuse, is that not in there?
 2 Would you like to read it for yourself for the
 3 record, does it not say that?
 4 BY MR. JOYAL:
 5 Q. I'm going to read you another section of
 6 the statute.
 7 MR. McNAIR: We're not here for a
 8 seminar. Do you want to ask questions concerning
 9 the case?
 10 MR. JOYAL: If you would like to get
 11 up and leave, go. I'm conducting this
 12 deposition. If it's too much for you, then I
 13 suggest that you find another line of work.
 14 Right now I'm going to do my deposition.
 15 MR. McNAIR: There's no need to be
 16 insulting.
 17 MR. JOYAL: Mr. McNair, if you start
 18 with me to talk about seminars --
 19 MR. McNAIR: If you start to
 20 intimidate my client --
 21 MR. JOYAL: I'm not trying to
 22 intimidate your client.
 23 MR. McNAIR: By implying she's
 24 violated some criminal statute with absolutely no
 25 foundation for that --

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1 MR. JOYAL: As I said to you, we
 2 will go through with your client's testimony
 3 whether she has or she hasn't.

4 One of your allegations in your complaint
 5 is that she was constructively discharged and
 6 forced to sign a letter of resignation because
 7 she was told that the district attorney's office
 8 may be getting a criminal complaint against her.
 9 That is in your complaint.

10 BY MR. JOYAL:

11 Q. Let's go to 30 Pa.C.S.A. Section 923,
 12 which is a classification of offenses and
 13 penalties. Now, remember what we just talked
 14 about, first statute said misdemeanor of the
 15 third degree. "General rule. -- The following
 16 penalties shall be imposed for violations of this
 17 title." And we'll go down to No. 5, because the
 18 others don't have any application here. "For a
 19 misdemeanor of the third degree, a fine of not
 20 less than \$250 nor more than \$5,000, or
 21 imprisonment not exceeding 90 days, or both."

22 Did anybody ever tell you about, when you
 23 were being trained, that violation of these
 24 confidentiality statutes could result in a fine
 25 or imprisonment if you were found guilty of them?

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1 A. Never.
 2 Q. Never. Let's go to the next section
 3 which was referred to in these, which is 23
 4 Pa.C.S.A 6339. This is about Chapter 63, again,
 5 it's child protective services under Title 23,
 6 Abuse of Family. "6339. Confidentiality of
 7 reports. Except as otherwise provided in this
 8 subchapter, reports made pursuant to this
 9 chapter, including, but not limited to, report
 10 summaries of child abuse and written reports made
 11 pursuant to Section 6313(b) and (c) (relating to
 12 reporting procedure) as well as any other
 13 information obtained, reports written or
 14 photographs or X-rays taken concerning alleged
 15 instances of child abuse in the possession of the
 16 department or a county agency shall be
 17 confidential."

18 Did you know about that statute?

19 MR. McNAIR: That has to do with
 20 child abuse investigations. That has nothing to
 21 do with providing ongoing services.

22 MR. JOYAL: We're not talking about
 23 providing ongoing services, sir.

24 MR. McNAIR: Is there an allegation
 25 she revealed information concerning pending

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1 investigation of abuse?

2 MR. JOYAL: Off the record.

3 (Discussion off the record.)

4 BY MR. JOYAL:

5 Q. Let's go to the next statute, 6340,
 6 Section 23. "Release of information in
 7 confidential reports." Rather than me reading
 8 this to you, ma'am, I'm going to let you read it
 9 while I take a little break. You and your lawyer
 10 can read it.

11 (Recess.)

12 BY MR. JOYAL:

13 Q. Have you read that document?

14 A. Yes. We went over it.

15 Q. You went over it. So when you were going
 16 over it, when you say you went over it, was this
 17 being explained to you, was someone interpreting
 18 this for you?

19 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

20 MR. JOYAL: Grounds?

21 MR. McNAIR: Privilege.

22 MR. JOYAL: Privilege?

23 MR. McNAIR: What we discussed, what
 24 she told us, what we told her, is privileged.

25 BY MR. JOYAL:

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1 Q. So you went over this statute, and you
 2 read it and talked about it?

3 A. We talked about it.

4 Q. While I was out of the room. Okay. So
 5 if, ma'am, you had released any information in
 6 confidential reports, if you had released any
 7 information in confidential reports, did you
 8 release it to anybody that was in this statute?
 9 For example, did you release it to an authorized
 10 official of the county agency, or agency of
 11 another state performing protective services?

12 MR. McNAIR: Objection. It calls
 13 for speculation.

14 A. I don't release --

15 MR. McNAIR: Also foundation.

16 Q. Have you ever told anybody in any of
 17 these categories about any client of OCY's
 18 information?

19 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

20 Q. Even to the extent of giving a phone
 21 number out?

22 MR. McNAIR: Objection. That has
 23 nothing to do --

24 MR. JOYAL: With what?

25 MR. McNAIR: -- with giving out a

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1 phone number.

2 MR. JOYAL: Sir --

3 MR. McNAIR: That has to do with
 4 pending ChildLine investigations.

5 MR. JOYAL: What's that?

6 MR. McNAIR: Which she had nothing
 7 to do with.

8 MR. JOYAL: Let's go back to all of
 9 these.

10 BY MR. JOYAL:

11 Q. We're talking about what is in a county
 12 record. In your experience, looking at records,
 13 would phone numbers of clients be in records
 14 maintained by the county for protective service?

15 A. Very rarely, I would think. I very
 16 rarely went through records, so you understand.
 17 I think we need to clarify something. I didn't
 18 go through cases or files. That wasn't in my job
 19 capacity.

20 Q. Well, if you were facilitating a visit,
 21 which was using your job capacity, would you need
 22 to call a parent sometimes?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Where would you get the phone number?

25 A. From the --

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ABBY B. CONLEY 109

1 Q. File?
 2 A. No. It's called a service form. I can't
 3 remember the exact title.
 4 Q. Is that part of a case agency record?
 5 MR. McNAIR: You're asking for a
 6 legal conclusion.
 7 BY MR. JOYAL:
 8 Q. I'm asking if you know.
 9 MR. McNAIR: You're asking for a
 10 legal conclusion.
 11 A. I really don't know. It's a request for
 12 services, the name of the form.
 13 Q. And if you opened up a file, would that
 14 be a request for services for John Doe, would that be
 15 a request for services with, would the phone
 16 number be in the file?
 17 A. No.
 18 Q. Where would it be?
 19 A. It would be in my file.
 20 Q. You maintain files of your own ongoing
 21 facilitations. Would you consider your file a
 22 county agency file? It's not personal, is it?
 23 A. No.
 24 Q. It's a county agency file?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. So that if you gave a phone number of a
 2 client from that file to someone who was not on
 3 this list, do you think you would be violating
 4 the statute?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. No? You don't.
 7 A. I'm not really sure what you mean.
 8 Q. Well, let's go over it. If you spoke --
 9 you know what a report is, right?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And you know that if there was a report
 12 of someone, anyone, committing child abuse, that
 13 would be considered to be a confidential
 14 document, correct?
 15 A. I would think, yes, sir.
 16 Q. And if someone told someone outside the
 17 agency or outside of law enforcement or outside
 18 of the people that we've seen in these statutes
 19 that there was an allegation that someone had
 20 committed child abuse, would that be a breach of
 21 confidentiality?
 22 MR. McNAIR: Objection. You're
 23 asking for a legal conclusion.
 24 MR. JOYAL: I'm asking what she
 25 knows.

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1 MR. McNAIR: You're asking her for a
 2 legal conclusion and you're asking her to
 3 speculate. Please rephrase the question.
 4 BY MR. JOYAL:
 5 Q. Ms. Conley, going back to your definition
 6 when I asked you about your training, you said
 7 releasing information about people was a
 8 no-brainer, that you knew you shouldn't do it.
 9 Let's use your term, would releasing information
 10 about a child abuse investigation or allegation
 11 be, in your mind, a no-brainer, that shouldn't be
 12 released to people outside the agency?
 13 MR. McNAIR: Object to the question
 14 because it's vague and speculative.
 15 Q. Do you understand my question?
 16 A. I understand it, but I also think it's
 17 kind of open ended.
 18 Q. Well --
 19 A. I don't know how to answer it without --
 20 Q. Answer it the best you can. Do you want
 21 me to be more specific?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Okay. Let's say that my friend here was
 24 in Erie County and that there had been an
 25 allegation of child abuse made against him, okay.

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1 There had been a report, there was an
 2 investigation ongoing. The investigation was
 3 ongoing, and you or a coworker of yours knew
 4 about that report. Would it be legal to tell the
 5 court reporter about that?
 6 A. The court reporter? Well...
 7 Q. Would it be legal to tell the court
 8 reporter that? Yes or no. If you know.
 9 A. I'm not really sure. If she is sitting
 10 in the courtroom...
 11 Q. That's not what we're talking about. Let
 12 me understand the scenario. There is no
 13 prosecution. We're not a courtroom. We're
 14 talking about someone calls up and says that this
 15 individual abused their child. And you or
 16 another worker of yours found out about that.
 17 Could you tell it to the court reporter?
 18 A. I don't think so.
 19 Q. Could you tell it to anybody on the
 20 street?
 21 A. No. I don't think so.
 22 Q. Could you tell it to Mr. McNair? He's
 23 not a county employee, is he?
 24 A. No.
 25 Q. So you couldn't tell it to him, right?

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1 A. I don't think so.
 2 Q. But, and you knew that, because that, to
 3 you, was a no-brainer. Right?
 4 A. Right. I would not, in that particular
 5 context, I would not.
 6 Q. Okay. We'll get to the context a little
 7 later on, if you think there's a difference.
 8 A. Okay.
 9 Q. Let's just go to the last statute here.
 10 And I'm going to identify it as 55 PA Code
 11 Section 3490.91. The sub title is "Persons to
 12 whom child abuse information shall be made
 13 available."
 14 If you haven't seen this before, ma'am,
 15 I'll let you read it, you and your lawyers can
 16 look at it.
 17 A. (Witness reviews document.)
 18 Q. Did you get a look at that?
 19 A. The gist of it.
 20 Q. You looked at it. Without asking you for
 21 a legal opinion, what is the gist of it?
 22 A. Basically, what categories are
 23 permissible to speak about client information.
 24 Q. It says, "Reports, report summaries and
 25 other accompanying information obtained under the

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 1 ABBY B. CONLEY
 2 CPSL," that's Child Protective Services Law,
 3 right, "and this chapter in the possession of the
 4 Department and a county agency are confidential,"
 5 right? "Except for the subject of a report,
 6 persons who receive information under this
 7 section shall be advised that they are subject to
 8 the confidentiality provisions of the CPSL, and
 9 this chapter, that they are required to insure
 10 the confidentiality and security of the
 11 information and that they are liable for civil
 12 and criminal penalties for releasing information
 13 to persons who are not permitted access to this
 14 information. This material shall only be
 15 released under the CPSL and this chapter and be
 16 made available to the following:" and it goes
 17 through a whole list of people, right?
 18 A. Right.
 19 Q. Do you see in here -- go through it for
 20 me.
 21 Do you see in here whether it says
 22 lawyers are entitled to see information or hear
 23 information from case files that has been
 24 confidential?
 25 MR. McNAIR: That's not what it
 says. You are so far off base, it's not funny.

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 1 ABBY B. CONLEY
 2 This has to do with processing a CY-48. There's
 3 no issue here about processing a CY-48.
 4 MR. JOYAL: Really, okay. You can
 5 argue that. I'm not here to answer your
 6 questions. You brought the lawsuit.
 7 MR. McNAIR: Right. This doesn't
 8 have anything to do with it.
 9 MR. JOYAL: That may be your opinion
 10 as to whether it does or it doesn't.
 11 BY MR. JOYAL:
 12 Q. Do you see anything about giving
 13 information to lawyers about anything?
 14 A. I don't, no.
 15 Q. And as far as -- he made -- do you know
 16 what a CY-48 is?
 17 A. No.
 18 Q. So your lawyer just mentioned something
 19 that you don't even know exists, is that right?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Would you consider a detention order to
 22 be something that is covered by that?
 23 MR. McNAIR: This specifically
 24 relates to confidentiality of a Report of
 25 Suspected Child Abuse CY-47, ChildLine Report of
 Suspected Abuse CY-47C, Child Protective Services

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 1 ABBY B. CONLEY
 2 Investigation Report CY-48, and Protective
 3 Service Supplemental Report CY-49, on file at
 4 ChildLine involving the subject child, the
 5 child's siblings and their parents.
 6 MR. JOYAL: Okay. That's fine. May
 7 I have it back?
 8 MR. McNAIR: No.
 9 MR. JOYAL: So if she's prosecuted
 10 under that section of the statute, you can defend
 11 her.
 12 MR. McNAIR: Absolutely.
 13 MR. JOYAL: Good. Now give it back
 14 to me.
 15 MR. McNAIR: You shouldn't be able
 16 to get a complaint processed. Go ahead. Be my
 17 guest.
 18 MR. JOYAL: I have no intention of
 19 doing it.
 20 MR. McNAIR: What is the point of
 21 this whole exercise?
 22 BY MR. JOYAL:
 23 Q. I want to read you the last paragraph
 24 here, ma'am.
 25 A. Okay.
 Q. Last thing is 17, and this will be D, "A

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1 ABBY B. CONLEY 117
 2 person, including a law enforcement official, who
 3 willfully breaches the confidentiality or
 4 security of information that the person received
 5 under this subsection, in addition to other civil
 6 or criminal penalties provided by law, shall be
 7 denied access to any confidential child abuse
 8 information in the future."

9 Now, you understand what that means,
 10 right? That if there is a criminal penalty as
 11 well as a civil penalty for violating, talking
 12 about child abuse information, is that right?

13 MR. McNAIR: There's a penalty for
 14 disclosing information contained in the ChildLine
 15 registry, which is what that refers to, and
 16 there's no allegation that she had access to the
 17 ChildLine registry, much less that she was
 18 revealing information from the ChildLine
 19 registry. The purpose of that regulation is to
 20 protect people who are the subject of reports of
 21 abuse.

22 MR. JOYAL: Well, that's good, thank
 23 you, Mr. McNair, for telling me that.

24 MR. McNAIR: Who are the
 25 perpetrators.

MR. JOYAL: Thank you for telling me

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1 ABBY B. CONLEY 118
 2 that.
 3 MR. McNAIR: That has nothing to do
 4 with this case.
 5 MR. JOYAL: Let's move on and maybe
 6 we'll find out whether it does or doesn't.
 7 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 22
 8 was marked for identification.)
 9 BY MR. JOYAL:
 10 Q. I want to show you Exhibit No. 22. We're
 11 out of order, Ms. Conley. Is that your signature
 12 on that?
 13 A. Yes, sir.
 14 Q. And it says that you have received a copy
 15 of the computer use policy from 2001, right?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Okay. And you dated that what day?
 18 2003?
 19 A. Yes, sir.
 20 Q. Let me have it for a second, because
 21 Mr. McNair has a copy of it, maybe he can share
 22 with you. While I'm reading, you can look along
 23 with him. Okay?
 24 A. Okay.
 25 MR. McNAIR: For the record I would
 note that this is page 6 of 6.

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1 ABBY B. CONLEY 119
 2 MR. JOYAL: Right.
 3 MR. McNAIR: Can you produce the
 4 original of this document?
 5 MR. JOYAL: I'm sure we probably
 6 could.
 7 THE WITNESS: Because that looks
 8 like --
 9 MR. JOYAL: You think that has been
 10 altered, ma'am?
 11 THE WITNESS: It does say page 6 of
 12 6.
 13 BY MR. JOYAL:
 14 Q. Right. Look at where the unsigned
 15 page is, what does that say? Page 6 of 6.
 16 A. It says the same.
 17 Q. Is it the same page?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Except without your signature on it. And
 20 that one is -- it's not the same page.
 21 A. That one has page 9.
 22 MR. McNAIR: It's not the same at
 23 all. It's a different document.
 24 MR. JOYAL: No, that is page 9 that
 25 was based upon --
 MR. McNAIR: It says 6 of 6.

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1 ABBY B. CONLEY 120
 2 They're different.
 3 MR. JOYAL: They're different to the
 4 extent, you know why they're different, because
 5 someone typed a 9 on this as a result of
 6 exhibits.
 7 MR. McNAIR: It says 6 of 6. It's a
 8 different form that is unsigned, and the one that
 9 is signed --
 10 MR. JOYAL: What does that say?
 11 MR. McNAIR: 6 of 6. It's obviously
 12 a different form.
 13 MR. JOYAL: All right.
 14 BY MR. JOYAL:
 15 Q. Let's go over it. You look at -- let me
 16 read you the two of these. Ms. Conley, what does
 17 it say in the top left-hand corner of the one
 18 that has the 9 on it that we're arguing about,
 19 the last page? Why don't you rip that last page
 20 off.
 21 MR. McNAIR: Leave that right there.
 22 MR. JOYAL: Okay.
 23 BY MR. JOYAL:
 24 Q. What does it say on the top left-hand
 25 corner, it says policy No. 3, right?
 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Look at, wouldn't you, on the first page,
 2 does it say policy No. 3?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. What does it say, Computer Use Policy
 5 Agreement, right?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Read the language to me of that one.
 8 A. "I, blank, have read and completely
 9 understand the 'Erie County Computer and Internet
 10 Use Policy' effective on July 1, 2001."
 11 Q. Now, go to the one that is on the front
 12 page, with the first page. What does that say?
 13 A. "I have read and completely understand
 14 'Erie County Computer and Internet Use Policy'
 15 effective on July 1, 2001."
 16 Q. Then your signature is on there, right,
 17 the printed name, that is your handwriting?
 18 A. Yes, sir.
 19 Q. And 2/11/03. Now flip the page for me.
 20 What are we looking at here? Policy number what?
 21 A. No. 1.
 22 Q. Policy No. 1 what?
 23 A. One.
 24 Q. No. That is page 1 you're looking at.
 25 Right up in the top it says subject, effective

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1 date, says July 1, 2001.
 2 A. I'm sorry. Yes.
 3 Q. We agree? What does it say, policy
 4 number what?
 5 A. No. 3.
 6 Q. What did you just read on the front page
 7 that says you read and understood?
 8 MR. MCNAIR: The document speaks for
 9 itself.
 10 MR. JOYAL: I'm asking her again.
 11 You raised the issue.
 12 BY MR. JOYAL:
 13 Q. What did you sign that said you read and
 14 understood?
 15 MR. MCNAIR: I don't think this
 16 overcomes the objection.
 17 A. No. 3.
 18 MR. JOYAL: You may not --
 19 BY MR. JOYAL:
 20 Q. Policy No. 3 effective July 1, 2001.
 21 Let's go through the document here. Let's go to
 22 prohibited activities.
 23 A. Okay.
 24 Q. Roman numeral II, "The following
 25 activities never constitute acceptable use and

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1 are always forbidden with County resources,
 2 including computers, whether during work hours or
 3 on the employee's own time: Pornography.
 4 Participation in chat rooms. Commercial
 5 activity. Political activity. Religious
 6 activity. Chain letters. Instant messaging for
 7 non-County related business. Solicitation of
 8 funds (except for official County business).
 9 Private e-mail accounts, both web-based and POP3.
 10 Password encoding files. Use of unauthorized
 11 hardware, software, or modifications."
 12 Got that, you read that, correct, you
 13 signed off on that, right?
 14 A. I don't remember all of this. I
 15 definitely signed it. I just don't remember all
 16 of this.
 17 Q. You don't remember it all?
 18 A. I don't. I definitely don't.
 19 Q. But you probably signed it and read it,
 20 right?
 21 MR. MCNAIR: Calls for speculation.
 22 Q. You did sign it and read it, didn't you?
 23 A. I signed this. And I'm not sure about
 24 all of this.
 25 Q. Are you in the habit --

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1 A. I don't recall -- I don't recall.
 2 Q. Are you in the habit of signing documents
 3 where you say you've read something, especially
 4 policies, without reading them?
 5 A. I'm not in that habit, no.
 6 Q. Let's go to the Roman numeral IV which
 7 says "County Access and Ownership of All Data."
 8 A. Um-hmm.
 9 Q. It says, "the County retains ownership of
 10 all data, passwords, applications and software
 11 developed with the use of County resources."
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. It says, "the County reserves and intends
 14 to exercise the right to monitor employees' use
 15 of County computers and to access any information
 16 stored on County computers, including email
 17 communications and Internet use." Do you see
 18 that?
 19 A. I do see that.
 20 Q. Do you see the last one that says, "Any
 21 activity conducted under a County employee user
 22 password will be attributed to the County user"?
 23 A. Yes, sir, I read that.
 24 Q. You need a password to get into your
 25 county computer, right?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And let's go to the last page, No. VII,
 3 Roman numeral No. VII, page 5 of 6. "Use of
 4 Internet." Right?
 5 A. Yes, sir.
 6 Q. "Downloading is limited to documents
 7 needed for work-related business. Downloading
 8 unauthorized programs is prohibited. No right of
 9 privacy exists for County employees using
 10 Internet or email services. If you receive an
 11 email message that harasses or threatens you,
 12 report it as soon as possible to your supervisor
 13 and the District Attorney's Office." Right?
 14 A. Yes, sir.
 15 Q. So that said that anything -- you
 16 understand, that that meant that there's no right
 17 of privacy for anything on your county computer.
 18 Right?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And you understood that the County had
 21 the right to monitor anything you did use in that
 22 computer, is that right?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Okay. And so you understood that you,
 25 again, you had no right of privacy to what was on

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1 that computer.
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. And that they could monitor it and they
 4 told you they would monitor it?
 5 MR. MCNAIR: It's not an issue.
 6 BY MR. JOYAL:
 7 Q. If necessary.
 8 A. I didn't know -- no, they didn't tell me
 9 that they monitored it. I know that...
 10 Q. You just told me, you told me that you're
 11 not in the habit of signing documents without
 12 reading.
 13 A. That's not what I just said, sir. My
 14 comment was in reference to what, the statement
 15 before, that you said about them monitoring, that
 16 they could do that. No. I did not understand --
 17 Q. You did not understand that?
 18 MR. MCNAIR: Would you let her
 19 finish her answer.
 20 A. I did not understand that that was a
 21 policy. For whatever it's worth, it's in this
 22 document. I did not understand that they could
 23 do that. That wasn't something that was ever
 24 told to me.
 25 Q. What about this?

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1 A. I'm telling --
 2 Q. What about this sentence don't you
 3 understand, "the County reserves and intends to
 4 exercise the right to monitor employees' use of
 5 County computers to access any information stored
 6 on County computers, including email
 7 communications and Internet use." What don't you
 8 understand about that?
 9 A. I understand what this says. I'm
 10 speaking in the context of what I understood
 11 working there.
 12 Q. Well, what did you -- you told me that
 13 you were not in the habit of signing something
 14 without reading it, so you would have -- your
 15 habit would have been you would have read it, you
 16 would have signed it?
 17 A. Yes, sir.
 18 Q. It had the same language in it?
 19 A. I'm not sure about the language. What
 20 I'm getting at, sir, is I don't recall that.
 21 Q. You don't recall. That's fair. You
 22 don't recall that that was in there when you
 23 signed this document?
 24 A. Definitely.
 25 Q. In 2003?

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1 MR. MCNAIR: And again, she didn't
 2 agree she signed that document in 2003. Nice
 3 try. But she is not going to agree she signed
 4 this five-page computer usage policy. She will
 5 agree her signature is contained on a document in
 6 a different format that you have stapled to the
 7 front of those five pages. But just so you
 8 understand, she has not agreed that she was given
 9 those five pages.
 10 MR. JOYAL: That's very good,
 11 Mr. McNair. I'm glad you clarified that.
 12 BY MR. JOYAL:
 13 Q. Do you remember signing a computer use
 14 document in 2003?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. Do you remember signing one --
 17 A. I don't know about the year, but, yes, I
 18 remember signing, yes.
 19 Q. Do you remember signing one prior to
 20 2003?
 21 A. I don't know.
 22 Q. You don't have a recollection of that?
 23 A. I could have.
 24 Q. You could have.

(Conley Deposition Exhibit 2)

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1 was marked for identification.)
2 BY MR. JOYAL:
3 Q. Let's go to Exhibit No. 2. Who is Deanna
4 Cosby?
5 A. She is a caseworker that was on my unit.
6 Q. She was a caseworker that was on your
7 unit, is that correct?
8 A. True.
9 Q. Deanna Cosby was terminated from that
10 agency, when, 2003?
11 A. She quit in 2003. Yes.
12 Q. 2003.
13 A. I think.
14 Q. And she moved to another job with another
15 social work agency in Charlotte, North Carolina,
16 is that right?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. She was a friend of yours, right?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. As a matter of fact, you were the
21 godmother of one of her children?
22 A. Not officially. She just said that in
23 some measure of --
24 Q. And you said that when you transmitted
25 some pictures of kids to various people and you

1 said so and so was your godson, right?

2 A. Yeah. There's not really an official in

3 the Christian realm. She said that as a measure

4 of sweetness.

5 Q. And you used a county computer to

6 transmit those pictures to people, is that right?

7 You used your county e-mail to do that, right?

8 A. To --

9 Q. Transmit photographs of Deanna's children

10 to folks, including herself?

11 A. Yes, I think I did.

12 Q. You did. And in order for you to get

13 those photographs on to the county computer, you

14 would have had to download them, right?

15 A. No. Because I didn't have access to the

16 Internet. I just -- I e-mailed it to my in box

17 from home.

18 Q. From home. How did you get them on your

19 computer at home?

20 A. I uploaded them.

21 Q. From where?

22 A. From my camera.

23 Q. From your digital camera?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So you took your digital camera, put them

1 on to your home computer and e-mailed them to
2 your computer?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Stored them on the hard drive, right?
5 Did you store them on the hard drive?
6 A. I think I did. Well, yeah, I would have
7 had to hit the save button, saved them and
8 e-mailed them as attachments to other people,
9 right. The coworkers, I think, at OCY, because
10 Deanna worked on our unit.
11 Q. I understand that. So you took, you used
12 a county computer at some point to transmit
13 things like that. Right?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. Let's --
16 MR. ANGELONE: Excuse me for a
17 second. I have to go.
18 (Mr. Angelone leaves deposition
19 room.)
20 BY MR. JOYAL:
21 Q. Let's look at Exhibit No. 2. Have you
22 ever seen that document before?
23 MR. McNAIR: Do I have a copy of
24 this?
25 MR. JOYAL: Yes. It's in there

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1 protective services file open in your office, did
 2 she not?
 3 A. I'm not sure about that. She was --
 4 Q. She was a client?
 5 A. She was a client, yes.
 6 Q. And her children were clients?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. And at the time she was pregnant, is that
 9 right?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And she was being represented by Amy
 12 Jones?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Correct? And you used your computer to
 15 tell Deanna Cosby about a client, who Deanna
 16 knew, by the way, didn't she?
 17 A. It was her case.
 18 Q. It was her case years ago, is that right?
 19 A. Yes, sir.
 20 Q. And did you --
 21 A. It wasn't years ago.
 22 MR. McNAIR: Objection.
 23 A. It was when -- you're looking at that
 24 e-mail, it was literally within months.
 25 Q. Months?

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1 A. It was her case.
 2 Q. She wasn't on the V. W. --
 3 A. No. She had moved to North Carolina.
 4 Q. B. case at that time, was she?
 5 A. No.
 6 MR. McNAIR: I don't have a copy of
 7 that.
 8 MR. JOYAL: We'll be happy to get
 9 you a copy.
 10 BY MR. JOYAL:
 11 Q. Do you want to point out something to me
 12 on this e-mail, ma'am?
 13 MR. McNAIR: No.
 14 A. Just...
 15 Q. Let's go back here. How did it happen
 16 that you knew that V. W.'s lawyer wanted
 17 Deanna Cosby to call?
 18 A. Because I worked on the case.
 19 Q. And how did you know that Vickie Wilson's
 20 lawyer wanted Deanna Cosby to call her?
 21 A. Because V. told me.
 22 Q. V. did? That her lawyer wanted to?
 23 So how did V. know that somebody needed to
 24 get to Deanna?
 25 A. Because she -- I don't know how she knew,

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1 she knew that Deanna was her caseworker and her
 2 and I, I'm sure, she knew that -- her and I had
 3 contact once a week during...
 4 Q. V. W. and you?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Please be specific as to who you mean by
 7 "her," because we have a bunch of "hers" here.
 8 A. Sorry about that. The W. case
 9 itself, I serviced this family once a week. I
 10 transported her two children to visits, and...
 11 Q. Visit who?
 12 A. To visit their mother. So she was
 13 interested in having Deanna come to a court
 14 hearing that they had coming up, it is standard
 15 operating procedure, the office of children and
 16 youth, with past caseworkers, since Deanna had
 17 the case, from the beginning until just before
 18 the Court hearing, they wanted to subpoena her,
 19 because she knew the most about the case.
 20 Q. She hadn't been on the case for four or
 21 five months, right?
 22 A. Actually at this point --
 23 Q. This was May?
 24 A. -- she would have been gone three months.
 25 Q. Three months?

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1 A. Yes, sir.
 2 Q. And are you sure about that?
 3 A. It seems to me that she has been gone
 4 longer than --
 5 Q. Do you remember telling me that she left
 6 the agency in 2003?
 7 A. I want to say she did. But you know
 8 what? I'm wondering if it was -- it was 2004.
 9 I'm sorry.
 10 Q. So you were mistaken before?
 11 A. I was mistaken. She left in February of
 12 2004.
 13 Q. Well, then, V. W. approached you
 14 because her lawyer wanted to subpoena, is that
 15 what you're saying, her lawyer told her that she
 16 wanted to subpoena Deanna Cosby?
 17 A. I know that that was something along that
 18 line. I didn't get into all the specifics. She,
 19 in fact, had Deanna's phone number already,
 20 before Deanna left, she had given her her number,
 21 I believe.
 22 Q. So Deanna -- did you come to find out or
 23 do you know whether Deanna and V. had
 24 socialized in the same social circles and they
 25 considered each other friends?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. You don't know that?
 3 A. No.
 4 Q. Did you know --
 5 A. They didn't.
 6 Q. Did you know under what circumstances
 7 Deanna Cosby left the agency?
 8 A. She left. Yeah.
 9 Q. She left. Under the circumstances, did
 10 you come to find out from a caseworker that when
 11 they opened up this file on V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] and the
 12 various children that she had that there was
 13 dictation missing, that they found out that
 14 Deanna had picked the children up for
 15 unauthorized and unsupervised visits, did you
 16 know anything about that?
 17 A. No. I think that there's a lot more, and
 18 I think that there's two sides to every story.
 19 Q. There may be, ma'am. I'm asking, did you
 20 know about it? Did Deanna talk to you about it?
 21 A. Deanna and the supervisor, Deanna had
 22 reported the supervisor because she was not
 23 sitting down and having meetings with her.
 24 Q. You had done that in the past?
 25 MR. McNAIR: Would you please let

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1 her finish her answer. Every time she says
 2 something you don't want to hear, you interrupt
 3 her. I'm getting tired of it. We're going to
 4 call a halt here and go see the judge if you keep
 5 up.

6 MR. JOYAL: Off the record.

7 (Discussion off the record.)

8 MR. JOYAL: Back on.

9 A. So you understand, the supervisor in this
 10 case is supposed to be sitting down with the
 11 caseworkers on a weekly basis to go over cases.

12 This particular supervisor that Deanna
 13 and I were under, Deanna had repeatedly tried to
 14 sit down, in fact, before she left, she reported
 15 the supervisor for not going over information,
 16 case information. I know that there was a lot of
 17 tension, but there's definitely two sides to that
 18 story. Dean is a very good caseworker.

19 Q. You had done the same thing, not only in
 20 2004 with this supervisor, Sue Deveney, but you
 21 had done it with a previous supervisor in 2003,
 22 is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Is that similar to what you did back at
 25 the time that you were working for the Erie

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1 County Human Development people?
 2 MR. McNAIR: Did what?
 3 BY MR. JOYAL:
 4 Q. Reported people for not doing their jobs,
 5 in your opinion.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. It's similar, isn't it?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. So you started doing it in Erie and then
 10 you did it in 2003, and you did it again in 2004.
 11 Now, my question to you was --
 12 MR. McNAIR: She admitted she
 13 reported a supervisor for not doing their job.
 14 A. I wouldn't call this -- the residential
 15 staff, I talked about things that I had saw to
 16 the supervisors.
 17 Q. And you talked about things that you had
 18 seen in 2003 on your former unit to other
 19 supervisors, is that right?
 20 A. Yes. I always brought my concerns to the
 21 supervisors.
 22 Q. Similar complaints.
 23 A. Specifically about caseworkers not
 24 showing up for work.
 25 Q. And then you did it in 2004 again, but

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1 also, you reported the caseworker, is that right?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. You reported more than one caseworker to
 4 supervisors, in your opinion, who weren't doing
 5 their job?
 6 A. Yes. It's not an opinion. In all due
 7 respect, sir, if I could just say something, by
 8 Erie County policy, by state policy, and by Court
 9 order, caseworkers are supposed to have contact
 10 with their clients, depending on the level of
 11 intensity on a case. The case might have
 12 specific dynamics where it would call for a
 13 higher level of supervision, and in this
 14 particular case, we had a caseworker that had not
 15 shown up to work for four months.
 16 Q. In this particular case?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. The V [REDACTED] J [REDACTED] case? Which caseworker
 19 was that?
 20 A. P [REDACTED] W [REDACTED].
 21 Q. And P [REDACTED] hasn't shown up for work for
 22 four months?
 23 A. Three months and a couple weeks,
 24 collectively, all together, she came to one visit
 25 for 15 minutes, another visit for 45, and I

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1 believe sat in on a bonding assessment and a
 2 quarter -- I have a point to make -- an entire
 3 quarter of a year went by. And the problem,
 4 okay, is that I liken it to wheeling a patient
 5 into an operation room and asking them to perform
 6 their own surgery. I can't manage case
 7 management, and when this supervisor doesn't
 8 check with the caseworker on a weekly basis that
 9 she is not doing her job, and the caseworker is
 10 not coming to work, the process, the system is
 11 broken. The reason I have first-hand knowledge
 12 of those values is because I'm on the front line
 13 servicing this family. And I can say without
 14 hesitation that the caseworker didn't show up for
 15 nearly four consecutive months.

16 Q. And didn't show up, you said she didn't
 17 show up for work. Are you telling me she didn't
 18 show up for visits?

19 A. She didn't show up to monitor the family.

20 Q. And you were there all the time?

21 A. Yes. I could not leave the children
 22 unattended with their parent.

23 Q. With their parent, because you knew that
 24 Ms. W. at a certain point in time didn't
 25 exhibit very good parenting skills?

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1 A. I had concerns.
 2 Q. Of course you did. And you expressed
 3 those concerns. Is that right?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Let's get back to this document and your
 6 e-mail to Deanna Cosby. You told me a little
 7 earlier that V. had her number because V.
 8 got her number when she moved to North Carolina?
 9 A. Actually I think V. had her number
 10 prior to her moving to North Carolina. Deanna
 11 took her cell phone that she used here to North
 12 Carolina, and I know V. at one point in the
 13 case was doing unmonitored, unsupervised visits
 14 and cell phone exchange, I believe, I'm not
 15 positive, between Deanna, and V. was a
 16 volunteer on Deanna's part, just in case
 17 something came up in the visit that V.
 18 needed, to get ahold of her, she had a cell phone
 19 number. So V., I believe, in this juncture,
 20 had been trying to get ahold of Deanna to no
 21 avail. I don't know what the problem is.

22 Q. Let's stop. You tend to go off on my
 23 questions. My question was, I think you answered
 24 it before you went on to your other part, that
 25 she had her cell phone number, okay. Do you know

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1 whether she had her address?

2 A. I don't know.

3 Q. Do you know whether or not she knew where
 4 she was working?

5 A. I don't know.

6 Q. Now, you said that V. was taking the
 7 children on unsupervised visits. Did you read
 8 the file --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- on those two children? Did you know
 11 that she wasn't supposed to have unsupervised
 12 visits with those children?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You didn't. Did somebody tell you at
 15 some point in time when another worker picked up
 16 this file that they had found out that Deanna had
 17 not put dictation in the file and that Deanna had
 18 taken the children for unsupervised visits with
 19 V.

20 A. I was told by Deanna that the visits were
 21 changing from unsupervised to supervised due to a
 22 court hearing, the dynamics of the case changed.

23 Q. When did she tell you that?

24 A. Just prior to her leaving, mom's visits
 25 changed and so, you know, too, I didn't always do

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1 V.'s visits. I worked on and off. There's a
 2 mother and a father on this case, and the father,
 3 I was doing his visits, which were unsupervised.
 4 I would drop the kids off, and we divided the
 5 case. Deanna did mom, I did dad.

6 Q. Well, when you say unsupervised, you
 7 wouldn't stay with the kids?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. You would drop them off and pick them up?

10 A. With --

11 Q. With the father?

12 A. And the grandparents sometimes.

13 Q. So you're telling me that at some point
 14 in time, Deanna Cosby told you that there was
 15 going to be a court hearing and they had switched
 16 the visits?

17 A. No. She told me during the course of a
 18 court hearing the dynamics of the visitations
 19 were going to change from unsupervised to
 20 supervised.

21 Q. Let me stop you there, because I don't
 22 understand what you're telling me.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. During a court hearing, was she telling
 25 you that there had been a court hearing and there

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1 had been a change issued by the Court?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. And when was that supposed to have taken
 4 place?
 5 A. It was -- I can't remember exactly what
 6 month, but it was -- I want to say December or
 7 January. It was just prior to Deanna leaving,
 8 the dynamics of the visits changed.
 9 Q. And you told me that when you heard this
 10 information about Deanna Cosby and people saying
 11 that she didn't quite do the job that they were
 12 looking for her to do, your reply to me was,
 13 there are two sides to every story?
 14 A. Yes, sir.
 15 Q. And Deanna Cosby is a friend of yours,
 16 right?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And she had problems with her
 19 supervisors, as you had problems with yours, is
 20 that right?
 21 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 22 Q. Is that right?
 23 A. It was the same supervisor.
 24 Q. Same supervisor. Well, you also had a
 25 supervisor the year before that you said wasn't

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1 doing -- wasn't giving you the proper --
 2 A. The supervisor before I transferred to
 3 Sue Deveney, I didn't have a problem with the
 4 supervisor. What I had a problem with was
 5 service neglect. I call it service neglect
 6 because there's not a term for it, that's when a
 7 caseworker doesn't show up to service a family or
 8 a case.
 9 Q. And you wrote a very long letter about
 10 that?
 11 A. I actually went to the executive director
 12 of the Department of Human Services, Steve
 13 Serovic and did a presentation. He asked me then
 14 to go before Paul Concilla. This was back in
 15 2003, to be specific. I gave them specifics
 16 about cases that I was involved in where
 17 caseworkers were not showing up to work and the
 18 clients didn't understand the direction of their
 19 case, because in my capacity as a case aide. So
 20 he had me meet with Paul Concilla.
 21 Q. And this was -- so they took your opinion
 22 for someone that had no social work background or
 23 education, and had you meet with somebody, and
 24 what happened after that?
 25 A. Paul Concilla asked me to draft something

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1 up as far as he confirmed that he was aware of
 2 the problems, that him and John Petulla had equal
 3 concerns and had seen that service neglect was
 4 taking place. He asked me if I would be willing
 5 to develop solutions, I mean, like he said, you
 6 know, it's one thing to complain, it's another to
 7 come up with a solution. So I drafted up
 8 something after that meeting with Paul Concilla
 9 with ideas that I thought would be good and
 10 helpful according to my perspective on the front
 11 line.

12 Q. Okay. On the front line. How many
 13 cases, do you know how many average, how many
 14 cases an average social worker at OCY in Erie
 15 County carries?

16 A. Eighteen.

17 Q. Eighteen?

18 A. Yeah, sometimes it goes a little bit
 19 above that, it's supposed to be below that. It
 20 depends on -- there's no absolutes.

21 Q. What happens when there's an emergency
 22 situation?

23 MR. McNAIR: Again, would you please
 24 let her finish her answer.

25 MR. JOYAL: She was finished, as far

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1 as I'm concerned.

2 MR. McNAIR: I understand your
 3 concerns. Let her finish her answer.

4 MR. JOYAL: Let's get back to this
 5 e-mail.

6 BY MR. JOYAL:

7 Q. Why did you communicate with Deanna Cosby
 8 when you just told me that V. W. had her
 9 phone number and that she had a lawyer? What was
 10 it that necessitated you doing that as opposed to
 11 you telling Vickie Wilson to give Deanna's cell
 12 phone number to her attorney?

13 A. Just because Vickie asked me if I would
 14 give the information, if I talked to Deanna, and
 15 I told her I would.

16 Q. You're a social worker -- you're a case
 17 aide. You know what confidentiality is. Why
 18 didn't you just tell V. W., give the
 19 information to your lawyer, or, alternatively,
 20 why didn't you just give it to Vickie Wilson,
 21 Deanna Cosby's e-mail address?

22 A. Because I would want to check that, I
 23 believe, with Deanna. It was not something that
 24 I just sat and meditated on. V. W. asked me if
 25 I would give Deanna the phone number so she could

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1 contact her. Mike Calling had contacted her, Sue
 2 Deveney had contacted her.

3 Q. They're not clients?

4 A. Sue Deveney had contacted her about
 5 clients and client information. In fact, she had
 6 mailed client information through the US Postal
 7 Service about a client to Deanna. Deanna was --

8 Q. Who mailed her --

9 A. Sue Deveney, Mike Calling, the attorney,
 10 Michelle Shetter had, a fellow caseworker had
 11 right in the margins of that particular e-mail,
 12 you have Michelle Shetter who is a caseworker on
 13 page 2, talking to Deanna that day about a case
 14 file in a subpoena.

15 So it's standard -- excuse me, sir, but
 16 it's standard operating procedure when cases,
 17 just so that you understand, when caseworkers
 18 leave, they don't just -- there just isn't a
 19 physical void. They're familiar with cases.
 20 It's not a dirty word to have a caseworker come
 21 back into a situation, because, let's face it, at
 22 this particular juncture, Deanna has been on this
 23 case for well over a year. She knows the
 24 dynamics better than anybody, which is the
 25 judicial process to have a caseworker subpoenaed

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1 back to a court hearing. It's a common standard
 2 operating procedure to contact past caseworkers
 3 to get their input on cases.

4 Q. Are you done?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Let me go over what you just said.

7 Michelle Shetter, Sue Deveney, Mike Calling are
 8 all either caseworkers or supervisors of OCY.
 9 Right?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Michelle Shetter's e-mail here that she
 12 wrote to you about, says, quote, "Michelle called
 13 me this morning so sweet and polite and how are
 14 you." I didn't hear even a hint, I suppose
 15 that's "I did hear even a hint of the trash that
 16 she and Sue probably have said about me. She
 17 wanted to know if I would be available for a,
 18 quote, teleconference for the A [redacted] case."
 19 When you got that e-mail, this wasn't, you know,
 20 Michelle Shetter called me and asked me -- it was
 21 so sweet and polite and how are you. I did hear
 22 even a hint of the trash -- that's from Deanna to
 23 you?

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. I'm well aware of that --

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1 A. Okay.

2 MR. McNAIR: It speaks for itself.
 3 It says what it says.

4 MR. JOYAL: I'm asking what -- stop
 5 interrupting her.

6 MR. McNAIR: We'll agree that's what
 7 it says.

8 MR. JOYAL: We're moving beyond
 9 that, Mr. McNair.

10 BY MR. JOYAL:

11 Q. When you saw that --

12 MR. McNAIR: If I can refer you
 13 back, maybe we can abbreviate this line of
 14 questioning, 55 Pa. Code 3130.44, which allows
 15 parents access to any information contained in
 16 the file unless a professional rendering services
 17 has said that they are not to have it.

18 MR. JOYAL: You make good speeches.

19 MR. McNAIR: I don't know, your
 20 point is?

21 MR. JOYAL: Listen, and you'll go,
 22 instead of listening to yourself talk, you'll
 23 hear the question.

24 BY MR. JOYAL:

25 Q. When you got this reply at 10:54 in the

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1 morning, what did you make of this, "so sweet and
 2 polite and how are yous. I did hear even a hint
 3 of the trash that she and Sue probably have said
 4 about me." What was your reaction to that?

5 A. I don't remember.

6 Q. Did you think it was friendly, did you
 7 think, that she had some good things to say about
 8 Michelle and Sue Deveney, or did you think she
 9 was a little angry and was somewhat sarcastic?

10 MR. McNAIR: She's not answering the
 11 question.

12 Q. You don't remember. Read it to me now.
 13 Does it refresh your recollection as to what you
 14 thought about their relationship between Michelle
 15 and Sue Deveney and Deanna Cosby? Was it a good
 16 one or a bad one?

17 A. Deanna is sarcastic and that is what I
 18 would think that she is a very caring,
 19 compassionate person, but she can be sarcastic
 20 sometimes and I think what she is doing there is
 21 being sarcastic.

22 Q. And do you know whether or not that was,
 23 that her sarcasm was based upon a good
 24 relationship with Sue Deveney and Michelle or a
 25 bad one?

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1 A. So that you understand --
 2 Q. No, ma'am. I want to have you answer my
 3 question. Your lawyer can have you -- he's
 4 writing it all down. He wants to ask you to talk
 5 about something else. That's fine. I want you
 6 to tell me whether or not those words indicate to
 7 you that they had a good or a bad relationship.
 8 MR. MCNAIR: Again, I think her
 9 interpretation is irrelevant.
 10 MR. JOYAL: It came to her.
 11 A. I think Deanna is being sarcastic. You
 12 asked me what my interpretation was.
 13 Q. Did she like them?
 14 A. I don't know how Deanna felt.
 15 Q. She never told you about her relationship
 16 with Sue and Michelle?
 17 A. She told me that she reported Sue Deveney
 18 for not sitting in on -- she reported her to her
 19 supervisor and that made Sue very angry.
 20 Q. It made Sue angry. But my question was,
 21 did she ever tell you whether she liked or
 22 disliked her?
 23 MR. MCNAIR: She has answered that.
 24 Q. Yes or --
 25 A. No. She was definitely agitated. She

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 1 ABBY B. CONLEY
 2 didn't say whether she liked or disliked them. I
 3 don't think that was ever -- there was some
 4 tension. Let's put it that way.
 5 Q. And again, you took a client who asked
 6 you to do something and you gave information --
 7 you just went and took it to Deanna, rather than
 8 give Deanna's e-mail address or telephone number
 9 to the person who apparently was supposed to be
 10 looking for this, which was Amy Jones, right?
 11 A. Yes. She asked V█████ to get ahold, or
 12 they were having a problem getting ahold of
 13 Deanna. I vaguely remember that.
 14 Q. Did Amy Jones approach you or did you
 15 know whether Amy Jones approached anybody at OCY
 16 to ask for the information about where Deanna
 17 was?
 18 A. No, about that.
 19 Q. Now, earlier you told me, you were
 20 talking to me about people who had contacted
 21 Deanna and you will agree with me, won't you,
 22 that all the people that contacted Deanna that
 23 you talked about, Mike Calling, Michelle, Sue
 24 Deveney about cases were doing it to get
 25 information from her about ongoing cases that she
 had handled, is that right?

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 1 ABBY B. CONLEY
 2 A. Yes, sir.
 3 Q. At this point when you contacted her,
 4 V█████ W█████ was asking you for information and
 5 that was different. That wasn't the same, was
 6 it, you weren't asking Deanna for information in
 7 your job, you were just relaying a message. Is
 8 that right?
 9 A. Yeah. They needed a caseworker on the
 10 case. We didn't have one, even though there was
 11 one assigned, and they needed a caseworker, the
 12 system at OCY, so you understand, is broke, and
 13 at this particular juncture, V█████ is saying, I
 14 don't have a caseworker, can someone, you know,
 15 help me, I don't understand this process, can you
 16 get ahold of Deanna. That was the crux of --
 17 Q. That's what she told you?
 18 A. Yeah. We both knew that P████ hadn't
 19 shown up, because she hadn't shown up.
 20 Q. Let's get back to what your obligations
 21 were as a case aide for OCY. If V█████ W█████
 22 calls you up and expresses all of that to you,
 23 right, did you go to Sue Deveney or to somebody
 24 else and say, I just got this phone call, what
 25 should I do with it? Yes or no.
 A. Did I go, yes.

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 1 ABBY B. CONLEY
 2 Q. Did you go to her? Did you go to her
 3 when V█████ W█████ made this phone call to you
 4 and talked to you the way you described, before
 5 you mailed the e-mail?
 6 A. Not before. I think I did say something
 7 to Sue about it, though.
 8 Q. Not before, but sometime afterwards, you
 9 went in, you had already sent this e-mail?
 10 A. Yes, sir.
 11 Q. So you didn't go to your supervisor or
 12 someone and say, this person just came to me, you
 13 just went directly to Deanna Cosby.
 14 MR. MCNAIR: I think she testified
 15 she did go to Sue Deveney.
 16 MR. JOYAL: She said afterwards. If
 17 you would listen to her testimony --
 18 MR. MCNAIR: You mischaracterized
 19 her testimony in your next question.
 20 BY MR. JOYAL:
 21 Q. Let's get it straightened out here.
 22 Before you sent this e-mail, after that
 23 conversation you just described, did you go to
 24 Sue Deveney?
 25 A. I believe that I did tell her that they
 were trying to get ahold of Deanna for the case.

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1 ABBY B. CONLEY 157

2 It's standard to get ahold of the past caseworker
 3 in a case. Deanna had more knowledge about the
 4 case than anybody on the planet. I thought
 5 nothing of plugging her in and I am sure that I
 6 said that to Sue, that they're trying to get
 7 ahold of Deanna.

8 Q. Let's get back to what you know. It's
 9 standard practice for OCY to plug in with other
 10 caseworkers, is that right? Is that what you're
 11 telling me?

12 A. Or past caseworkers, even after they
 13 leave.

14 Q. Right, so that --

15 A. It happens all the time. Even right
 16 here.

17 Q. Can you let me finish my question. OCY
 18 contacts these people, is that right? OCY
 19 contacts these people, is that the standard
 20 procedure you're talking about?

21 A. Actually, the staff, I've seen
 22 caseworkers talk to them, I've --

23 MR. McNAIR: Is your premise that
 24 there's some prohibition against a client
 25 contacting a former caseworker? Is that your
 premise? I'm trying to figure out --

1 ABBY B. CONLEY 158

2 MR. JOYAL: Is it their -- I don't
 3 have to talk to you about my premises. I'm
 4 trying to get information.

5 MR. McNAIR: You have seven hours.
 6 Use it wisely.

7 MR. JOYAL: I intend to.

8 BY MR. JOYAL:

9 Q. Here is what I'm asking you. When I say
 10 OCY, I mean caseworkers, people like you,
 11 supervisors, the director, their lawyers. So, I
 12 don't mean clients, I don't mean lawyers for
 13 clients, I don't mean parents of clients that are
 14 outside it, that are not being serviced.

15 Do you understand what I'm talking about?

16 A. Um-hmm.

17 Q. The standard practice is for OCY people
 18 to contact former caseworkers to get their input
 19 on cases that have been transferred, is that
 20 correct? For a certain period of time?

21 A. In part, yes.

22 Q. Okay. But five years after a case is
 23 gone, they're not calling another caseworker to
 24 find out what they knew five years before,
 25 because they're not part of the case now.

A. Actually, that's not true.

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2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I'm sorry that -- I'm trying to tell you
 4 the truth, sir. And I worked there for four
 5 years. I know, and in one particular case there
 6 was a caseworker that had been off a case for
 7 four years. The case was reopened, they had to
 8 subpoena her.

9 Q. Who subpoenaed her?

10 A. They asked her.

11 Q. Who subpoenaed her?

12 A. I believe the courts.

13 Q. Well, was it a subpoena by OCY?

14 A. I don't know.

15 Q. Or was it a subpoena by --

16 A. I just remember the caseworker who
 17 transferred over to CCIS, coming over and saying,
 18 you're not going to believe this, I've just been
 19 called, it's been four years since I had this
 20 case. And she had to go to a court hearing and
 21 she was not in a capacity as a caseworker for
 22 Children's Services anymore, and she hadn't had
 23 the case for four years.

24 Q. Okay, ma'am. Let me ask you this
 25 question: It's very important.

A. Okay.

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2 Q. Who subpoenaed her? Was it OCY or was it
 3 counsel for the parents?

4 A. She didn't specify.

5 Q. So you don't know, therefore, when you
 6 say that, you don't know whether or not it was
 7 OCY that subpoenaed her. You're just telling me,
 8 and you understand what my confusion is, you're
 9 talking about a standard procedure, but you don't
 10 know who did the subpoena, so would you agree
 11 with me that you can't tell me whether that was
 12 an OCY procedure or whether it was someone who
 13 decided to subpoena somebody for a court hearing
 14 to testify on behalf of the parents, can you?

15 A. (Witness shaking head.) Not unless
 16 you're talking about individual cases. I would
 17 still -- people don't just show me subpoenas or
 18 forms or whatever.

19 Q. I'm talking about the case that you just
 20 talked to me about, where the worker had been off
 21 the case for four years. You don't know who
 22 subpoenaed her?

23 A. I don't even know what the case was.

24 Q. So at that point in time we would agree
 25 that answer, you don't know whether that was, who
 did that or whether that was a procedure that you

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1 just described to me?
 2 A. Right. But the statement you made prior
 3 to that is that after six years, that a
 4 caseworker is not going to get called back, and I
 5 can say with assurance that this particular
 6 caseworker after four years was in fact called
 7 back. The method of why she was called back, I
 8 don't know. But her testimony was prevalent and
 9 in the sense that it was brought up in a court
 10 hearing. So, I was not just making a blanket
 11 statement. I was referring to the question that
 12 you asked, with all respect, sir.
 13 Q. Let me, with all respect to you, modify
 14 my question. Would it be a very rare instance
 15 that a caseworker that had been off a case for
 16 four years would be called back by OCY?
 17 A. I would think. I would guess.
 18 Q. And that if there was, if the case hadn't
 19 been closed, and was an ongoing case, it would be
 20 very rare for a caseworker that had been off the
 21 case for a period of time to be called back by
 22 OCY to give an opinion as to a family that he or
 23 she hasn't seen for some period of time, is that
 24 correct?
 25 A. I don't really -- I don't have a

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1 statistical chart or gauge. I just know that,
 2 you know, I worked there Monday through Friday.
 3 You see and hear things. You don't necessarily
 4 have, you know, someone gauging or taking
 5 statistical figures.
 6 Q. I understand. I'm going to show you
 7 another e-mail, this has been marked as Exhibit
 8 No. 3.
 9 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 3
 10 was marked for identification.)
 11 BY MR. JOYAL:
 12 Q. These are at least three pages --
 13 MR. MCNAIR: Could we get a copy of
 14 this?
 15 MR. LANE: We'll make copies of all
 16 of these.
 17 MR. MCNAIR: Thank you.
 18 MR. JOYAL: Let me ask off the
 19 record.
 20 (Discussion off the record.)
 21 BY MR. JOYAL:
 22 Q. Let's go to -- Exhibit No. 3 is the three
 23 pages of e-mails which begin on June 4 at 11:12
 24 a.m. and these are from Deanna Cosby and they go
 25 all the way until, the last one is from Abby

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1 Conley on the first page, June 7 at 10:04 a.m.
 2 They all have the same title, subject line. "Did
 3 you call my cell last night."
 4 A. Do you have a copy that I can look at?
 5 Q. It has Matt Granger at the top of it.
 6 And the date is June 7.
 7 (Discussion off the record.)
 8 BY MR. JOYAL:
 9 Q. Do you see it?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. You have seen this before, right?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 MR. MCNAIR: And this is No. 3.
 14 BY MR. JOYAL:
 15 Q. Let's start here. Go to the third page,
 16 because we'll start in chronological order.
 17 First e-mail from Deanna Cosby to you at your OCY
 18 terminal, subject, "Did you call my cell last
 19 night?" Right?
 20 A. Yes, sir.
 21 Q. And you responded to, right above that at
 22 11:28 in the morning, "Yes, I did, I REALLY
 23 wanted to tell you something! I'll talk to you
 24 this weekend, I don't trust this e-mail system
 25 (monitored)." Right?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. So you at that point had some concerns
 3 that someone was going to be looking at your
 4 e-mails?
 5 A. Oh, yeah. I didn't -- I don't know, I
 6 didn't have -- I caught someone reading my
 7 e-mail.
 8 Q. You said monitored.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Who looked at your e-mail, was it a
 11 caseworker?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Did you try to hide the e-mail from the
 14 caseworker?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. What was she reading?
 17 A. She was in my cube and I had -- I just
 18 left my desk top open all the time because I was
 19 in and out of the building, and I saw her reading
 20 my e-mail.
 21 Q. And then we get to -- who was it?
 22 A. Michelle Shetter.
 23 Q. She was a caseworker?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. In effect, your supervisor?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. Yes?
 3 A. No, actually, a caseworker is not my
 4 supervisor. We're considered support staff.
 5 Q. And then the next reply from Deanna,
 6 which was the 12:09, "can someone say....
 7 paranoid," and you replied to her, "Paranoid"
 8 with an exclamation mark and she replied back to
 9 you, with justification, and you replied back to
 10 her at 1:17. So we started at 11:12, we're now
 11 at 1:17, which is about two hours, after that,
 12 you're still talking to her with the same thing
 13 and you said, "I have learned not to trust! Zin,
 14 the new girl is awesome. She is Christian,
 15 normal, and believes in empowerment! God sent
 16 her to this unit. I can tell she is going to be
 17 one of us!" What does that mean, one of us, what
 18 does that mean?
 19 A. Well, as I told you before, we have a
 20 caseworker who is engaging in service neglect.
 21 We have a supervisor that is also not doing her
 22 job. And with Zin, myself, and Deanna, we
 23 believe in the policies that are implemented for
 24 the agency that we are to empower. We are to
 25 encourage. We are to explain and define a

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1 process. You get -- sometimes a parent might
 2 need, in one case, for instance, a parent who is
 3 illiterate is going to need their summaries read
 4 to them, a parent who might not have support
 5 systems within a family, might need some
 6 counseling or other aspects. But no matter what,
 7 every client needs a caseworker, so when I'm --
 8 and empowerment. Someone behind them, a case can
 9 be made or broken by the type of caseworker or
 10 professional staff that you have on duty. So
 11 when I'm talking about empowerment, it's in the
 12 context of helping this parent along, providing
 13 the support systems and the methods to help them
 14 understand the process.

15 Q. Okay. And that was, without being
 16 facetious, so you three became -- thought of
 17 yourselves as the Three Musketeers, you were
 18 going to change the world, right?

19 A. No. Zin was just a student and I was, in
 20 my simplicity, just a case aide, but even in my
 21 capacity as a case aide, I could encourage, I can
 22 help in the sense of, you know, reading a
 23 document to someone who is illiterate. Zin was
 24 the same kind of person. She got involved in her
 25 cases. She wasn't engaging in service neglect.

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1 Deanna didn't engage in service neglect, I didn't
 2 engage in service neglect. It was hands-on
 3 involved with their case.
 4 Q. Again, Deanna Cosby is gone. No longer a
 5 member of your unit, no longer having any ability
 6 to positively impact her clients unless she
 7 contacted them outside the normal channels,
 8 correct?
 9 A. Well --
 10 MR. MCNAIR: What do you mean by
 11 normal channels?
 12 Q. Unless she contacted them, you know,
 13 unless she was asked by the client or --
 14 A. I know she was going to be subpoenaed to
 15 the Court hearing, but P█ wasn't showing up to
 16 work, so...
 17 Q. There's no question before you, ma'am.
 18 Your lawyer asked me to make an explanation.
 19 There's no question before you.
 20 A. Okay.
 21 MR. MCNAIR: I thought you gave the
 22 explanation.
 23 Q. And there's no question --
 24 MR. MCNAIR: Restate your question.
 25 MR. JOYAL: I will.

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BY MR. JOYAL:

2 Q. Let me go back here. What did you mean
 3 by, "I have learned not to trust"?

4 A. Because I saw Michelle reading my e-mail.
 5 I think that that is an invasion of privacy when
 6 you sit there and, you know, you're looking over
 7 someone's shoulder, and it's just, I thought it
 8 was inappropriate.

9 Q. But you've already testified, and we
 10 understand that you said, although you don't
 11 remember, that you had no expectation of privacy
 12 under the computer policy, right?

13 A. I don't...

14 MR. JOYAL: Do you want to enter an
 15 objection?

16 MR. MCNAIR: You're
 17 mischaracterizing e-mail policy, because it
 18 didn't provide for monitoring of e-mail by
 19 non-supervisors.

20 MR. JOYAL: Okay. You can argue
 21 that.

22 MR. MCNAIR: I imagine that we will.

23 MR. JOYAL: You can make your own
 24 judgment as to what the e-mail policy is since
 25 you're not the person implementing it.

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1 BY MR. JOYAL:
 2 Q. And this whole thing of Christian,
 3 normal, what does that mean, were others not
 4 Christian and not normal in your unit?
 5 A. Christians typically, the methodology, at
 6 least in biblical sense, is that when you go to
 7 work, that you don't necessarily work for man,
 8 but you work unto the Lord, and the concept is
 9 you give an honest day for the dollars that you
 10 earn, and when you're getting paid, you service
 11 the client. So when you don't have someone not
 12 showing up to work and just blows the client off
 13 for a quarter of a year like P. W. did,
 14 that is an example of not being Christian. And
 15 as far as reference to normality, you know, I had
 16 some real issues or concerns, you know, when I
 17 was talking to her about --
 18 Q. Talking to who?
 19 A. Deanna, in this e-mail.
 20 Q. So let me understand what you just said
 21 to me. You're basing your philosophy on biblical
 22 principles as opposed to secular principles that
 23 may be the way the agency operates, am I
 24 understanding that correctly?
 25 A. No. I think that it kind of defines that

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1 in my statement. I'm talking about learning not
 2 to trust. When I'm talking about Zin, the new
 3 girl, she is Christian, normal, and believes in
 4 empowerment. So I'm filing three separate
 5 categories. Christian, my thinking is that she
 6 works hard. She is on the job. She is not
 7 engaging in service neglect. She is normal in
 8 the sense that she doesn't ignore, you know,
 9 policies that she is not, you know, coming to
 10 work and not doing what she's not supposed to.
 11 And believes in empowerment. So it's not just a
 12 Christian philosophy, but there's actually three
 13 categories there.
 14 Q. When you first told me about it, before
 15 that, you talked about a biblical sense?
 16 A. Because you asked me about the word
 17 Christian.
 18 Q. And you defined Christian in a biblical
 19 sense about work. Now, let's get away from this,
 20 "I have learned not to trust," and let's go back
 21 to what my other question, which was, your
 22 opinion was that this student did not engage in
 23 service neglect. How long had Zin, the new girl,
 24 been in your unit when you wrote this e-mail?
 25 A. I believe a few --

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1 (Interruption.)
 2 Q. How long had she been there?
 3 A. I'm not really sure. I want to say a few
 4 weeks, months. She was new.
 5 Q. A few weeks or months. And what would a
 6 student's job be?
 7 A. She was supposed to be getting trained,
 8 but she also filed a complaint against Sue
 9 Deveney and P. W. for service neglect,
 10 and that suit wasn't -- so that was another part
 11 of this, is that when I'm talking about normal,
 12 it's in the context that she sees the value in
 13 having a caseworker that is showing up to work.
 14 Q. She is a student. What year in school
 15 was she?
 16 A. I don't know.
 17 Q. And where did she get the concept of
 18 service neglect? Where did she get that from?
 19 A. You would have to ask her. I just know
 20 that she told me that she had been thrust into
 21 taking on cases and she just had some concerns
 22 because she wasn't -- she was doing case
 23 management and not getting the training that she
 24 needed and the cases that she had, she had
 25 concerns about, and had also filed a complaint.

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1 Q. Let's back up. My question was, did you
 2 talk to her about the concept of service neglect?
 3 A. Zin?
 4 Q. Yes.
 5 A. Yes. I believe I did.
 6 Q. When did you first talk to her about the
 7 concept of service neglect, when she first came
 8 aboard?
 9 A. No. She --
 10 MR. MCNAIR: You mean service
 11 neglect or empowerment?
 12 MR. JOYAL: Service neglect.
 13 A. When she was complaining about how crazy
 14 OCY was, just that we're not -- they weren't
 15 doing what they were supposed to. She just
 16 complained.
 17 Q. She was complaining to you?
 18 A. But I don't think that that was --
 19 Q. Stop for a minute, please. The question
 20 is, she was complaining to you about OCY?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And did you encourage her complaints or
 23 did you tell her that, you know, she is new,
 24 she'll learn, what did you tell her?
 25 A. That she should, you know -- she told me

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1 that she had reported it.
 2 Q. When she first was talking to you about
 3 her complaints, as a student, do you know what
 4 year in college she was in?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. Do you know anything about her education?
 7 A. She was getting her bachelor's degree in
 8 social services.
 9 Q. Do you know what year she was in?
 10 MR. MCNAIR: Again, she has
 11 answered. It's been asked and answered three
 12 times, she has answered that she doesn't know.
 13 A. I'm not sure.
 14 MR. MCNAIR: You're not going to
 15 beat her into making an answer that is inaccurate
 16 to get her off your back. Please stop it.
 17 BY MR. JOYAL:
 18 Q. What were her duties? Do you know what
 19 her duties were?
 20 A. I do. The student is supposed to, in a
 21 perfect synopsis, be under a caseworker and
 22 mentoring. That wasn't taking place. She was
 23 actually carrying cases, and I saw her as she saw
 24 me, doing visits, you know, bringing kids in,
 25 leaving with kids, supervising visits, picking up

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1 and, you know, basically the same job I was
 2 doing, but technically, she was supposed to be
 3 getting mentoring, learning how to be in case
 4 management, etcetera.
 5 Q. What were you teaching her?
 6 A. She sat in on visitations, different
 7 visits that I would have and that was basically
 8 it. She was going to --
 9 Q. So she was complaining to you, someone
 10 who had already talked to people about your
 11 feelings about the shortcomings of the unit that
 12 you were in?
 13 A. I'm sorry?
 14 Q. She was complaining to you and you were a
 15 person who had already spoken to other people
 16 about the shortcomings of your coworkers in the
 17 unit you were in, is that correct?
 18 A. I didn't really talk to her -- I didn't
 19 complain.
 20 Q. I didn't say you complained. Her
 21 complaints came to you, and you had already been
 22 someone who had complained about other workers.
 23 A. It is what it is.
 24 Q. Well, is it what it is? My question is,
 25 had you done that in the past?

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1 A. I don't understand your question.
 2 Q. Let me stop. You have already testified
 3 that you had made complaints and talked about
 4 this whole concept of service neglect prior to
 5 this e-mail, is that right?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And this girl came to you, she is a
 8 student, and she started complaining and using
 9 terms like service neglect to someone who had
 10 already done that.
 11 A. That is my term. What she did is talked
 12 about the fact that the caseworkers were not
 13 showing up to work, that Sue was not sitting down
 14 with her on a weekly basis going over her cases,
 15 she was complaining about the caseworkers not
 16 doing their job. The service neglect term comes
 17 from me.
 18 Q. So you made that term up.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. It has nothing to do with any term of art
 21 of social work?
 22 A. No, sir.
 23 Q. During the period of time that you were
 24 there from the year 2000 until 2004, how many
 25 books on social work did you read, any?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. And how many times did you go to your
 3 supervisors and ask them if they might be able to
 4 get you involved in college courses so that you
 5 could learn a little bit more about the dynamics
 6 of social work?
 7 A. I didn't.
 8 Q. You didn't. Did you ever go to
 9 Mercyhurst or Gannon or even the Community
 10 College here and take a course in sociology?
 11 A. No, sir.
 12 Q. And did you ever, during that four-year
 13 period of time, try to expand your education?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. By taking those courses?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Through who?
 18 A. Bible Institute.
 19 Q. The Bible Institute. So you never took a
 20 course in social work or anything like that that
 21 was given by a college that would lead to a
 22 degree as other social workers did, is that
 23 correct?
 24 A. Right.
 25 Q. You went through the Bible Institute?

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1 A. That is my area of interest.
 2 Q. That is your area. So can you provide to
 3 Mr. McNair, and I'm doing this on the record, all
 4 the courses from the Bible Institute that had to
 5 do, that you took, with your grades, about social
 6 work. Because I'll do it by form. Do you have
 7 that documentation? Do you have the syllabus of
 8 the course, the tests, and things like that that
 9 had to do, from the Trip Bible Institute, about
 10 social work?
 11 A. There's not really anything about social
 12 work. It's more about how you conduct yourself,
 13 your character.
 14 Q. As a Christian.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. So when you were talking about all of
 17 these concepts that you came up with on social
 18 work, these had nothing to do with established
 19 principles that had been followed for years about
 20 social work, you were talking about what the
 21 Bible Institute told you about how you conduct
 22 your life, is that right?
 23 A. In what context am I talking? I'm sorry.
 24 I'm missing something. I don't understand.
 25 Q. Let's go — you answered a question for

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1 me, you never took a course in social work of any
 2 type?
 3 A. Yes, sir.
 4 Q. All of your education and training about
 5 social work came through the Trip Bible
 6 Institute. Is that right?
 7 A. My education of theology came through the
 8 Trip Bible Institute. Not sociology.
 9 Q. Let's go back, then, to make sure we
 10 understand each other. I think maybe you
 11 misunderstood my question. It's fair to say that
 12 from the time you started working at OCY until
 13 the time you terminated from OCY, you did not
 14 take any course or training offered by a college
 15 or any other institution about principles of
 16 social work and how to deal with families.
 17 A. Right.
 18 Q. But you did take various correspondence
 19 courses from the Trip Bible Institute to teach
 20 you how to live your life?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. So when you talk about this term that you
 23 made up of service neglect, did that come from
 24 your mind or did that come from the Trip Bible
 25 Institute?

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1 A. It came from my mind.
 2 Q. And you made it up.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 MR. MCNAIR: The concept of service
 5 neglect or the term?
 6 MR. JOYAL: The term.
 7 MR. MCNAIR: Applying it to somebody
 8 who isn't doing their job, that they're being
 9 paid to do.
 10 MR. JOYAL: Applying. Whatever way.
 11 THE WITNESS: They're neglecting to
 12 service the family.
 13 MR. JOYAL: This is the term that --
 14 THE WITNESS: I don't think --
 15 MR. MCNAIR: Let's take a break now.
 16 We'll be back in an hour.
 17 MR. JOYAL: She is not leaving until
 18 the question is answered.
 19 MR. MCNAIR: Okay.
 20 BY MR. JOYAL:
 21 Q. Service neglect is a concept you made up.
 22 A. Yes, sir.
 23 MR. MCNAIR: It's a term, isn't it?
 24 MR. JOYAL: No. Wait a minute. She
 25 just answered the question. Do you want to

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1 cross-examine her?
 2 MR. MCNAIR: She was misled into it.
 3 MR. JOYAL: Oh, please.
 4 MR. MCNAIR: Please what?
 5 MR. JOYAL: She was misled into it.
 6 We'll be back in 20 minutes, 2:30.
 7 (Luncheon recess, 2:06 o'clock p.m.
 8 until 3:01 o'clock p.m.)
 9 AFTERNOON SESSION
 10 BY MR. JOYAL:
 11 Q. Let's go back to Exhibit No. 3, if we
 12 could, ma'am. We were on page 3, which was the
 13 last page of it. Let's just move over, if we
 14 could.
 15 A. It says B. on the top.
 16 Q. Let me just take Exhibit No. 3 and ask
 17 you this question: These are e-mails that came
 18 and went between you and Deanna Cosby from June 4
 19 until June 7, is that correct?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. During those three days, the 4th, 5th,
 22 6th, and 7th, four days, did you and Deanna Cosby
 23 speak over the telephone?
 24 A. I don't know. We could have.
 25 Q. The reason I ask is this: There's an

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1 e-mail on page 2, again, you start at the bottom,
 2 and there's one, two, three -- there's a line
 3 that says, original message, okay. Do you see
 4 that, from Deanna Cosby at 1:31 p.m.?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. The question is, "do you think I'm wrong
 7 for wanting to help VW?" VW is V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED], is
 8 that right?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. Had you spoken to her on the telephone
 11 prior to 1:31 p.m.?

12 A. I could have.

13 Q. And at that point in time, did you tell
 14 her about the detention order that the department
 15 was seeking for her unborn child?

16 A. Hum-mm.

17 Q. You didn't?

18 MR. MCNAIR: Did she talk to who,
 19 V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]?

20 BY MR. JOYAL:

21 Q. No. Did you talk to Deanna Cosby. I'm
 22 sorry, didn't make that plain. Did you speak to
 23 Deanna Cosby at all on the telephone that day?

24 A. I don't remember.

25 Q. And you say that you never told her about

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1 the order. Right? Is that what you're telling
 2 me?

3 A. I didn't have to. She already knew.

4 Q. How would she know about a detention
 5 order that had not been served on anyone?

6 A. Because under the circumstances, the
 7 child would be detained.

8 Q. Under what circumstances?

9 A. V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] had two children in foster
 10 care, and she was already pregnant when Deanna
 11 had the case, and Deanna already -- it's like,
 12 under the circumstances, we're going to detain,
 13 and a very high probability, and either a child
 14 would go to kinship care or foster care. It's a
 15 given under the circumstances. She already had
 16 two kids in foster care.

17 Q. It's a given under the circumstances. So
 18 you mean that the agency just goes into court
 19 with an order and doesn't have to present any
 20 evidence and the judge will sign off on it, Judge
 21 Kelly would sign it, is that what you're telling
 22 us?

23 A. I don't know all the procedures at all.

24 Q. Then how do you know it's a given?

25 A. Because of all the hundreds of cases I've

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1 had before.

2 Q. Now, if that were the case, if it were a
 3 given --

4 A. Maybe given is a bad word. It would be
 5 of high probability under the circumstances.
 6 Chances are that that is what would occur.

7 Q. Now, you were at that point in time an
 8 employee, right, of OCY?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And you were bound by OCY, as part of
 11 your job, to conform to all the rules and
 12 regulations of OCY, is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. In the state, and the statutes. And her
 15 question to you at 1:31 p.m. was, "do you think
 16 I'm wrong for wanting to help?" Then when we
 17 flip up to the response that you gave her at
 18 1:39, you say "No, I want you to help her. I'm
 19 crushed by what is going to happen. It's just
 20 not right Deanna." Right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Your responsibility for your job would be
 23 to do what?

24 A. To do my job.

25 Q. To do your job, which meant if you

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1 followed the rules and regulations and the
 2 statutes, would be to not be saying things like,
 3 I want you to help her, isn't that true?

4 MR. MCNAIR: Objection.
 5 Argumentative.

6 Q. Isn't that true?

7 MR. MCNAIR: Objection.
 8 Argumentative.

9 MR. JOYAL: That's fine. She can
 10 answer.

11 BY MR. JOYAL:

12 Q. Your job would have been not to do that,
 13 would it?

14 MR. MCNAIR: Objection.
 15 Argumentative.

16 A. Under the circumstances, not having a
 17 caseworker on duty, this mother needed help and
 18 wasn't getting it.

19 Q. But you were --

20 A. And she was being processed without any
 21 definitions or explanations or anything. She was
 22 being essentially led and not -- she didn't
 23 understand the process. Like I told you earlier,
 24 I'm not a caseworker. I couldn't be a
 25 caseworker, and the caseworker that was on this

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1 case did not show up to work for a quarter of a
 2 year, and it really stunk that -- not just what
 3 the child, but the kids in foster care, this
 4 mother doesn't know what is going on.

5 Q. Okay, Ms. Conley. An exhibit earlier,
 6 you and I both talked about the fact that she had
 7 a lawyer. Her lawyer was representing her?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Correct?

10 A. (Witness nodding head.) Yes.

11 Q. Her lawyer's job would be to do what was
 12 necessary to protect her rights, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Her lawyer would have known as a lawyer
 15 what to do in case there was a detention,
 16 wouldn't she?

17 A. I don't know.

18 Q. You don't know?

19 A. I would think, yes.

20 Q. You would think, yes. So here you go,
 21 and you're telling Deanna Cosby to help her.

22 A. That isn't what I said, she asked me my
 23 opinion, what I thought about it. I didn't tell
 24 her to help her. It was in reference to her
 25 question.

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1 Q. Your response was, "No, I want you to
 2 help her."

3 A. That's what I would think.

4 Q. "I'm crushed by what is going to happen."
 5 You told her to help her. You didn't say I don't
 6 have an opinion on whether you should help her,
 7 you said, I want you to help her. Right?

8 A. I think.

9 Q. Yes?

10 A. She asked me a question and I was
 11 answering her question.

12 Q. The simple answer is the e-mail says, "I
 13 want you to help her." Isn't that true?

14 A. Yes. That's what it says.

15 Q. Let's go to the next one. She wrote you
 16 back, shortly thereafter, probably right away,
 17 "I'm not if you personally think it's right or
 18 maybe I am but from a Christian stand point." Do
 19 you understand what that means?

20 A. Whether or not that there was a moral
 21 conflict with --

22 Q. With the law?

23 A. With what she was doing.

24 Q. In your mind was there a moral conflict
 25 with what the law and the OCY regulations were

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1 all about?

2 A. I'm not familiar with all the laws. I'm
 3 not an attorney.

4 Q. You said you had hundreds of cases, you
 5 know, you said as a matter of course, with V [REDACTED]
 6 W [REDACTED]'s history, that there would have been a
 7 detention; hundreds, you said. You know what the
 8 law is. Do you know what the procedure is?

9 A. I know what I saw first --

10 Q. No, that wasn't my question. I would
 11 really like to stop you.

12 MR. McNAIR: I think she testified
 13 that she doesn't know what the law is, she
 14 doesn't know what the procedure is. I would ask
 15 you to stop trying to cram that down her throat.

16 BY MR. JOYAL:

17 Q. Explain to me why you used the term, over
 18 the hundreds of cases I know about, I know what
 19 the procedure is, what you said is true, that you
 20 don't. Do you know the procedure?

21 A. I know what happens in the other cases
 22 that I held.

23 Q. And in any of the other cases that you
 24 held, did you tell anyone about a detention order
 25 before it was served?

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1 A. You don't tell parents about detention
 2 orders.

3 Q. So in this particular case, you didn't
 4 tell the parents -- you didn't tell the parent
 5 about the detention order, is that right, but you
 6 told, the idea was that you told Deanna Cosby
 7 that she should tell the parent about the
 8 detention order?

9 A. No way.

10 Q. Let's go back to the next one. After she
 11 wrote you that e-mail at 1:39, the next one that
 12 came back was from you to her was at 1:51. By
 13 the way, what were you doing in terms of your own
 14 job while you were doing these e-mails?

15 A. It's hard to say. In the line of work
 16 that I do, you don't necessarily get, you know,
 17 from 12 to 1 for lunch, from 1:15 to 1:30 for
 18 break.

19 MR. McNAIR: I think you have this
 20 out of sequence. I really do.

21 Q. 1:34, 1:39?

22 MR. McNAIR: 1:51 looks to be a
 23 response to the 1:49. It makes a difference
 24 here. If you're going to start putting things
 25 out of order and misrepresenting exhibits.

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2 MR. JOYAL: Mr. McNair, what
3 difference does it make?

4 MR. McNAIR: It makes a difference.

5 MR. JOYAL: To what?

6 MR. McNAIR: You're saying and then
7 did you this and then did you that.

8 MR. JOYAL: Well, I'll turn it back.

9 MR. McNAIR: Why don't you ask that.

10 MR. JOYAL: We'll turn it back for
11 the 15 seconds it took to come back.

12 BY MR. JOYAL:

13 Q. At 1:39 p.m., from the 1:34, I presume,
14 she turned around and sent you one back that
15 says, "I'm not if you personally think it's right
16 or maybe I am but from a Christian stand point." So
17 we'll take Mr. McNair's thing, 15 seconds
18 later, it says, "No, I want you to help her." So
19 she was then, at 1:39:00, apparently, asking,
20 telling you -- having a doubt as to whether she
21 should help her, and you turned around 15 seconds
22 later and told her to help her, that you wanted
23 her to help her. Do you agree with that?

24 MR. McNAIR: No, we don't agree to
25 that.

MR. JOYAL: Mr. McNair, you're not

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2 testifying.

3 MR. McNAIR: That is going to be the
4 subject of expert testimony.

5 MR. JOYAL: What expert? You
6 haven't identified an expert. You haven't
7 identified an expert in your disclosure. You
8 haven't done anything of the sort. Don't talk to
9 me about the subject of expert testimony.

10 MR. McNAIR: If you want this into
11 evidence, Bubba, you're going to have an expert.

12 MR. JOYAL: Listen. No. 1, my name
13 is not Bubba.

14 MR. McNAIR: I forget your name.
15 Put these in sequence. I know how to read
16 e-mail, and apparently you don't. I'm getting
17 tired of this.

18 MR. JOYAL: Be tired all you want.
19 Here we go.

20 BY MR. JOYAL:

21 Q. 1:39:15, what did you write her back?
22 What did you write her back? No matter what the
23 time was, did you tell her you wanted her to help
24 her? Yes or no.

25 A. Yes.

Q. Let's go to one --

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2 A. In the context of answering the question
3 below, she asked me what my thoughts were. I did
4 not -- I was not asking her to help -- do you
5 think I'm wrong for wanting to help V. My
6 thoughts, I was not asking her to tell V. My
7 thoughts were, no, you're not wrong. I want
8 you -- I wasn't specifically saying, go out and
9 help her. I wasn't giving orders. She asked me
10 a question, whether or not I thought she was
11 wrong for what, she wanting to help, and I said
12 no. I wasn't giving an order. I was answering a
13 question.

14 Q. We'll go into the context of these as
15 they go forward. At what point in time, if any,
16 from the first e-mail that you sent her which was
17 Exhibit 2 on the 27th about V.'s attorney
18 wanting her to call her to this e-mail at
19 1:39:15, when did it start to occur to you that
20 maybe you were getting into a point where you
21 were starting to be inappropriate and having
22 inappropriate discussions about a client of the
23 agency with someone who was no longer a person
24 entitled to that information?

25 A. This was a third party, I would think
that it would be inappropriate, but if you're

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2 talking about the former caseworker, not Jeffrey
3 Dahmer. This caseworker knew this case better
4 than anybody on the planet. Again, I'm going to
5 reflect the fact that was a caseworker who was
6 not doing their job. The system at the office of
7 children and youth is broke.

8 Q. I'm going to stop you. You're not being
9 responsive to my question. My question was
10 fairly simple. You gave me an answer which was,
11 never. Here is my question again, based upon
12 what we've talked to before --

13 MR. JOYAL: Excuse me.

14 MR. McNAIR: Do you have a problem?

15 MR. JOYAL: I do have a problem.
16 You can't write that down and suggest answers to
17 her. And what I'll do right now --

18 MR. McNAIR: I'll save that and ask
it.

19 MR. JOYAL: You may want to save it
and ask it. You better save it because I'm going
20 to ask the judge to be able to see it. It's a
21 violation of the Federal rules. You can't do
22 that.

23 BY MR. JOYAL:

24 Q. Deanna Cosby was not a person entitled to

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1 any information from you out of this case file,
 2 confirmation or no confirmation about whether
 3 there was a detention order, is that correct?

4 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. You're
 5 asking her for a legal conclusion.

6 BY MR. JOYAL:

7 Q. I showed you the statute.

8 MR. MCNAIR: The answer you
 9 obviously want is incorrect.

10 MR. JOYAL: Really?

11 MR. MCNAIR: Really. Who has
 12 standing to object?

13 MR. JOYAL: To what?

14 MR. MCNAIR: To this breach of
 15 confidentiality.

16 MR. JOYAL: The state.

17 MR. MCNAIR: How about V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]
 18 not having an objection, how about V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]
 19 wanting this communication to go forward.

20 MR. JOYAL: You know what?

21 MR. MCNAIR: You have V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]
 22 ready to testify that she feels harmed by this?

23 MR. JOYAL: I don't care about --

24 V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] --

25 MR. MCNAIR: You don't know her.

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1 She is nothing to you because you represent the
 2 agency.

3 MR. JOYAL: You're so full of it
 4 that it's coming out of your ears. Stop making a
 5 speech and let's get to where we're at here. If
 6 you want to argue that to a jury, be my guest, if
 7 you get there. Let's go back to where we were.

8 BY MR. JOYAL:

9 Q. Let's go back, after this e-mail, let's
 10 go up to the top one which is 1:49. Let's make
 11 sure that it's in sequence. 1:49 p.m. Friday,
 12 June 4. From Deanna Cosby, "You know I'm not in
 13 any position to judge who's sin is greater I
 14 don't even believe I can weigh it that way aren't
 15 all sins," whatever. What you are doing is --
 16 what you are doing, this was directed to you,
 17 right, this is to Abby Conley?

18 MR. MCNAIR: You're entitled to your
 19 interpretation of it.

20 MR. JOYAL: I'm just reading it.

21 MR. MCNAIR: No, you're not. You're
 22 browbeating her. You're raising your voice to
 23 her.

24 MR. JOYAL: Let me lower my voice.
 25 I apologize for that.

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1 BY MR. JOYAL:

2 Q. June 4, 1:49, to Abby Conley from Deanna
 3 Cosby, right?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 MR. MCNAIR: There's no from.

6 MR. JOYAL: It's on the first page.

7 MR. MCNAIR: Okay.

8 BY MR. JOYAL:

9 Q. By the way, Deanna Cosby was using, as
 10 far as you know, the Mecklenburg, North Carolina
 11 web site to talk to you about this stuff?

12 A. Her e-mail, yes.

13 Q. At her work site?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. She says here in this paragraph, and I'm
 16 going to read it, you tell me if I'm reading it
 17 correctly. "What you are doing is not a sin
 18 because you did speak up several times in VW's
 19 defense but what I'm asking is in your Christian
 20 experience would I be wrong if I tried to help."

21 Now, how did she know that you had spoken
 22 up several times in V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]'s defense?

23 MR. MCNAIR: Because if you look at
 24 the e-mail. Goddamn it, I've had enough of this.
 25 She is responding to --

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1 MR. JOYAL: I'm going to call the
 2 judge. I'm calling the judge.

3 MR. MCNAIR: You do that. Get the
 4 judge on the phone. I'm tired of this.

5 MR. JOYAL: You know what, I don't
 6 know what you're trying to pull here. I'm asking
 7 her -- what is your objection?

8 MR. MCNAIR: My objection is that
 9 you're asking about -- you're assuming that that
 10 reply is to this 1:39 e-mail and it's obviously
 11 not.

12 MR. JOYAL: I'm not making any
 13 assumptions.

14 MR. MCNAIR: It's prior to the 1:51
 15 e-mail. Because computer clocks are different.

16 MR. JOYAL: So you know how to read
 17 them, are you a computer expert?

18 MR. MCNAIR: I know enough about
 19 computers to know that the date that goes out on
 20 an e-mail is whatever is on the internal clock of
 21 the computer. If it's wrong, you're going to get
 22 a wrong time. But when you look at this --

23 MR. JOYAL: Sit down.

24 MR. MCNAIR: You see she is replying
 25 to the matter that is below it.

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1 MR. JOYAL: I'm going to move to
 2 strike everything that Mr. McNair said because
 3 apparently he doesn't understand that it's not up
 4 to him to testify for his client, nor does he
 5 understand the Federal rules.

6 MR. McNAIR: I understand the
 7 Federal rules.

8 MR. JOYAL: I don't think you do.
 9 Because if you did, you wouldn't be doing what
 10 you're doing here, which is all total violation
 11 of the Federal rules. I'm going to reserve my
 12 right to bring her back with the judge presiding.

13 MR. McNAIR: Fine.

14 MR. JOYAL: We'll go forward.

15 MR. McNAIR: You want to do that,
 16 fine.

17 MR. JOYAL: We will. Because you're
 18 obstructing this deposition. You're absolutely
 19 obstructing the deposition. I'm reading from
 20 e-mails that she has already admitted came to
 21 her.

22 MR. McNAIR: You're deliberately
 23 putting them out of order to misrepresent the
 24 facts.

25 MR. JOYAL: Am I really? Have a

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seat.

MR. McNAIR: Yes, you are.

BY MR. JOYAL:

4 Q. Ms. Conley, let's not even talk about the
 5 order, because I'll give you an opportunity to
 6 explain what these mean. My question to you is
 7 this: Let me ask another question. As you sit
 8 here today, do you have any recollection of
 9 talking to her on the telephone at all during any
 10 of the periods of time?

11 A. Not at work. I think I talked to her, I
 12 don't know, on the telephone all the time.

13 Q. But I'm asking you in this time frame,
 14 you've heard Mr. McNair's speech about how they
 15 were, there were computer clocks and this and
 16 that and how he thinks I'm deliberately putting
 17 things out of order.

18 A. When you were talking about Esther today,
 19 I thought about what you said, so it confirms her
 20 and I spoke sometime that day about the book of
 21 Esther.

22 Q. And maybe about V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]. Right?

23 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

Speculation.

24 A. I can't say.

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1 Q. Is it possible you could have spoken to
 2 her?

3 MR. McNAIR: Objection. Calls for
 4 speculation.

5 Q. She can answer.

6 Is it possible you may have spoken to her
 7 when you talked to her about the book of Esther?

8 A. I can't recall.

9 Q. Can't recall. Okay. Let's go on to that
 10 one, because I think this is the one that
 11 Mr. McNair seems to think was before the 1:49.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. And you're not sure as you sit here today
 14 whether the one that says 1:49 came in before the
 15 one that says 1:51, are you?

16 A. I'm looking, sir. Can I have just a
 17 second?

18 Q. Sure, you can.

19 A. (Witness reviews document.) It seems to
 20 me that the 1:51:53 comes before the 1:49.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. Because the last statement of that
 23 paragraph, I make reference to whose sin is
 24 greater, theirs or mine. And that's when, above
 25 that, she is, refers to -- that is the way the

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e-mails go.

1 Q. Where in the 1:51:53 do you make a
 2 reference to whose sin is greater?

3 A. The second paragraph down, it says...
 4 Q. Who's sin is greater?

5 A. "Who's sin is greater, theirs or mine?"
 6 Then Deanna responds, "You know I'm not in any
 7 position to judge who's sin is greater." So this
 8 came --

9 Q. That is fine. Thank you very much for
 10 pointing that out to me. Let's go down to what
 11 you wrote to her before. "Facts are this, P [REDACTED]
 12 has severe mental health issues, Sue does not
 13 have the professional aptitude to make the call
 14 that she has on VW."

15 A. She doesn't.

16 Q. Let me ask you this question, ma'am:
 17 These are two people that have social work
 18 degrees, is that correct, and you have none?

19 A. That is not in the context.

20 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

Argumentative. Ask a question, ask a question.

We're going to terminate this.

MR. JOYAL: Okay.

MR. McNAIR: I'm not going to have

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1 you sit here and yell at my client anymore.

2 BY MR. JOYAL:

3 Q. What did you base this on, what do you
4 base --

5 A. Do you want to hear it?

6 Q. Let me ask you a question. I'm going to
7 get to hear it.

8 A. Okay. You asked me a question. I'm
9 trying to answer. But you keep interrupting me.

10 Q. I'll ask you this: Under what
11 circumstances or under what authority or under
12 what training, it's a three -- I'll give you
13 three of them, for you to say that P█ has
14 severe mental health issues?

15 A. I'm not coming out as a Ph.D.
16 psychologist when I am making that statement.
17 P█ had not serviced this client for a quarter
18 of a year.

19 Q. Okay. I'm going to stop you now. You're
20 not being responsive.

21 A. I am, if you would give me a chance to
22 get to it. There's a point.

23 Q. We're going to get to the severe mental
24 health issues part?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Go.

2 A. The second is that this woman, there's a
3 court order from Judge Kelly on the table that
4 defines that she is supposed to up the ante and
5 do more supervision of this family. She has not.

6 Q. Where is the Court order? And where did
7 you see it?

8 A. I saw it in the process of servicing the
9 case.

10 Q. I thought you said you didn't look at the
11 case file.

12 A. I didn't.

13 Q. You said you had your own file. Where
14 was the Court order that you just referred to
15 that said she was supposed to supervise the case
16 more? Where was it?

17 A. Attached to the service.

18 Q. What service?

19 A. The service plan, service request or
20 whatever it's called.

21 Q. What service request and what was the
22 date?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. So when you told me before that you
25 weren't really looking at P█'s file, you were

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1 mistaken?

2 A. No. In V█'s file, there were some
3 givens. She was supposed to, and I know that I
4 got that from Deanna as well.

5 Q. Wait. Stop for a minute.

6 MR. McNAIR: Would you please stop
7 interrupting her.

8 MR. JOYAL: No. She's not
9 responsive. We'll be here for the next week.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay.

11 BY MR. JOYAL:

12 Q. Answer my question. Are you telling me
13 as we sit here today, and you're going to tell a
14 jury, that Deanna Cosby, who you're not even sure
15 when she left the agency, knew what was, had
16 transpired since she left in V█'s W█'s
17 file?

18 A. It was already established.

19 Q. Yes or no it was established, but nothing
20 happened in terms of court for V█ W█
21 between the time Deanna Cosby left and the time
22 that these e-mails were done, is that what you're
23 telling me?

24 A. Before Deanna left, Judge Kelly had
25 ordered that the case have a higher level of

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1 service, I believe it was in February. I
2 specifically remember that.

3 Q. February of 2004?

4 A. I think so.

5 Q. Okay. When did -- excuse me. This will
6 make it easier. When did Ms. Cosby leave?

7 A. In February.

8 Q. You're not sure of that?

9 A. In February.

10 Q. She left in February?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. So when Ms. Cosby left, the judge had
13 issued an order about her case saying it needed a
14 higher level of supervision. The case that she
15 was working on, the case that the judge would
16 have been looking at her work, is that correct?

17 A. Actually, something, an incident occurred
18 with this particular mother being involved with a
19 bank robber, and that was towards the end of
20 Deanna's involvement in the case. The dynamics
21 of the case changed at that particular point.
22 Visits went from unsupervised to supervised, and
23 then I know that there was some concerns about
24 mom's involvement with this bank robber, the
25 father of the baby.

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1 Q. We're back talking about severe mental
2 health issues. In December of 1999, you were
3 diagnosed with bipolar disorder, is that correct?
4 A. No.
5 Q. It wasn't?
6 A. No.
7 Q. Did you tell anybody that you had been
8 diagnosed with bipolar disorder?
9 A. I think what I said is that they had
10 concerns that I might have bipolar.
11 Q. And you had been put on medication for
12 depression and mental health issues, correct?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. And you were substitute, and you are a
15 person who was talking about someone else's
16 mental health condition, you who had been
17 diagnosed and treated for depression and tried to
18 commit suicide twice?
19 MR. McNAIR: Mr. Joyal, may I ask
20 you to explain the relevance of that to a fact in
21 issue in this case?
22 MR. JOYAL: No. Answer my question.
23 MR. McNAIR: I'm going to direct her
24 not to answer.
25 BY MR. JOYAL:

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1 Q. You agree with me, don't you, that you
2 had been treated for severe depression and had
3 mental health issues, is that right?
4 MR. McNAIR: That's been covered.
5 Move on.
6 Q. You had been given medication at some
7 point in time?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. And that it was only after you started at
10 the Trip Bible Institute that you stopped that.
11 Have you been --
12 A. Shortly after that I stopped taking
13 medication, because it made me sick.
14 Q. When was the last time you were, you
15 know, treated with a mental health professional?
16 MR. McNAIR: Objection. There is no
17 relevance to that. That is privileged.
18 MR. JOYAL: It's privileged?
19 MR. McNAIR: It's privileged.
20 MR. JOYAL: It's part of your
21 damages claim.
22 MR. McNAIR: File a motion.
23 MR. JOYAL: Withdraw your claim.
24 MR. McNAIR: No. She's not claiming
25 mental health treatment as a result --

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1 MR. JOYAL: She is claiming mental
2 health. She certainly is.
3 MR. McNAIR: She is not claiming
4 that she required mental health.
5 MR. JOYAL: She is claiming she was
6 emotionally distressed.
7 BY MR. JOYAL:
8 Q. Where is it that you in some sort of
9 professional capacity can make a judgment as to
10 Sue Deveney's professional aptitude?
11 A. She is not sitting down with her
12 caseworkers once a week going over cases. Had
13 she known that, she would have known [REDACTED] had
14 not shown up to work for a quarter of a year.
15 The system is broke at OCY.
16 Q. And the system was broke when you were
17 with the mental retardation people and the system
18 was broke at 911 as well, wasn't it, and didn't
19 you tell people all that?
20 A. I never went into any of that at the 911
21 center. If what you're trying to correlate is
22 some history, sir, I think that it's responsible
23 to describe when something wrong is happening.
24 Q. Ma'am, every place that you have worked
25 you have complained and said that your judgment

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1 was better than the people that were running the
2 system, isn't that correct?
3 MR. McNAIR: Objection. This is
4 simply argumentative and it's redundant. Would
5 you please ask some questions about the case or
6 let us go on about our business?
7 MR. JOYAL: We are asking questions
8 about the case, Mr. McNair. Again, maybe if you
9 read the case a little bit, we would get further
10 on with this.
11 (Interruption.)
12 BY MR. JOYAL:
13 Q. Let's go on to the first page. This was
14 an e-mail, apparently, on the 4th at 1:56:48.
15 And I presume it's a response from you to the
16 1:49 one, since you said the 1:51:53 came before
17 1:49. Did you tell Deanna, "Your in a better
18 position than I!" And then shortly -- then
19 there's one at 1:56 and 1:59, which says, which
20 Deanna is telling you about a kinship policy,
21 correct?
22 A. This seems to me there's something wrong
23 here.
24 Q. What is wrong?
25 A. It seems like it's out of order.

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1 Q. Well, help us out here with the order,
 2 then, as you recall it, a year ago.
 3 A. I see. Okay. I follow you. I'm sorry.
 4 My mistake.
 5 Q. So she responded to you about a kinship
 6 policy that was issued in December of '03?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. That she was going to forward to the
 9 attorney.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Right? And then there's a message from
 12 6/4 of 2:29:53, and I'm going to presume that
 13 that is maybe wrong, okay?
 14 A. What is this, you're being smart?
 15 Q. I am not being smart. I'm trying to look
 16 at these things in context, and I see that what
 17 you said in this one was, "I just spoke to V [REDACTED]
 18 last night, she was not in labor. Her attorney
 19 told V [REDACTED] that she has nothing to worry about
 20 when it comes to the unborn child. She told
 21 Vickie that we (OCY) cannot detain. V [REDACTED] is
 22 taking her attorney's advice. She is due any
 23 day. P [REDACTED] has detention letters at all the
 24 local hospitals. V [REDACTED] does not see this
 25 coming." Now, did that one go, was that one

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1 before -- when you wrote in that that you had
 2 spoken to V [REDACTED] last night, was that the night
 3 of the 3rd? Where you were talking to her about
 4 the detention orders?
 5 A. Well, I don't know in what context,
 6 because I talked to the clients every week in my
 7 capacity as a case aide to set up visits, and I
 8 have to talk to them, and I want to say that her
 9 visits were on Wednesdays, if I recall, and
 10 this -- it looks like Friday.
 11 Q. We can get a calendar for you, ma'am.
 12 A. It says Friday, June 4th.
 13 Q. Did you speak to her the night of
 14 June 3rd?
 15 A. I can't recall. I'm not positively sure.
 16 Q. You're not positive. But you wouldn't
 17 have written something about speaking to V [REDACTED]
 18 and talking to her about detention orders and
 19 stuff like that and talking about what her lawyer
 20 said if you didn't do it, would you?
 21 A. No. I definitely remember talking to
 22 Vickie.
 23 Q. And you gave her information about
 24 detention orders at that point, didn't you?
 25 A. V [REDACTED]?

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1 Q. Yes.
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. Did you then go to your supervisor or the
 4 caseworker that had been assigned to the case and
 5 say, I spoke to V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] last night, and was
 6 talking about a visit, and she's talking to me
 7 about detention orders? Detention orders -- let
 8 me withdraw that question. Detention orders are
 9 supposed to be confidential, is that right?
 10 A. But you do understand that in this
 11 context it was --
 12 Q. Please answer my question. Detention
 13 orders are supposed to be confidential, is that
 14 right?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And if a client talked to you about a
 17 detention order, then in your capacity as a
 18 social -- as a workers' aide or a social worker
 19 aide, you have a responsibility to talk to the
 20 agency and say, something might happen here,
 21 because she knows about this detention order. I
 22 don't know how she knew, but somebody told her.
 23 MR. MCNAIR: Objection.
 24 Argumentative.
 25 BY MR. JOYAL:

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1 Q. Would that not be your responsibility,
 2 ma'am, to notify someone that a client who was
 3 going to have a child knew about something that
 4 might be happening?
 5 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. Foundation.
 6 Speculation, argumentative.
 7 MR. JOYAL: Answer my question,
 8 please.
 9 BY MR. JOYAL:
 10 Q. Yes or no?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. So your responsibility would not be to go
 13 to the agency to tell them that a mother who has
 14 two children in foster care might do something
 15 that might end up harming her unborn child, is
 16 that what you're telling me?
 17 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. Foundation,
 18 relevance, speculation.
 19 MR. JOYAL: Fine.
 20 BY MR. JOYAL:
 21 Q. Answer the question.
 22 A. In this context, that is not what V [REDACTED]
 23 was saying. She was talking about a discussion
 24 that her attorney had with her that she -- that
 25 OCY could not detain. She was under the

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1 impression that they weren't going to detain is
 2 what I'm reading from this.
 3 Q. Well, wait a minute, ma'am.
 4 MR. MCNAIR: Stop interrupting her.
 5 Q. A year later?
 6 MR. MCNAIR: One more time and I'll
 7 call the judge.
 8 Q. A year later --
 9 MR. JOYAL: Why don't you advise her
 10 to respond to the question instead of giving me a
 11 speech.
 12 MR. MCNAIR: I thought that was
 13 responsive.
 14 MR. JOYAL: It wasn't and you know
 15 that as well as I do.
 16 BY MR. JOYAL:
 17 Q. You had an obligation, which we've
 18 already talked about, to keep detention orders
 19 confidential, right?
 20 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 21 Q. Yes. And what do you then tell, no
 22 matter what the context, what do you then tell
 23 Ms. Cosby in North Carolina, P. has detention
 24 letters at all the local hospitals, V. does
 25 not see this coming. You said that, right?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. You admit to that. And what did she
 3 respond to you?
 4 A. She will.
 5 Q. She will. And when you heard she
 6 will, did it then occur to you that maybe your
 7 conversation was going to lead to someone who
 8 shouldn't have had that information, divulging a
 9 confidential piece of information to a client?
 10 MR. MCNAIR: Objection.
 11 Argumentative.
 12 Q. Answer.
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. No. You didn't care, did you?
 15 A. I cared.
 16 Q. You cared about what, you didn't care
 17 about -- who did you care about, V. W. or
 18 the unborn child?
 19 A. All parties involved. I wouldn't want to
 20 cause a flight risk.
 21 Q. Really?
 22 A. Yes, sir.
 23 Q. Well, then, let me show you a document.
 24 This is Exhibit No. 14. Tell me if you've ever
 25 seen that before.

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1 A. (Witness reviews document.)
 2 MR. MCNAIR: Would you mind
 3 identifying it.
 4 MR. JOYAL: Sure. Let me have it
 5 for a second, Ms. Conley.
 6 BY MR. JOYAL:
 7 Q. This is a letter dated 6/3/04 from V.
 8 W. to R. R. B., who is M.
 9 W.'s father. Have you ever seen this before?
 10 A. No. Until today.
 11 Q. All right. May I have it back, I'm going
 12 to read it to you, because he has a copy of it
 13 right here.
 14 MR. MCNAIR: First of all, how many
 15 pages is this document supposed to be?
 16 MR. JOYAL: I don't know. One, two,
 17 three, four, five.
 18 MR. MCNAIR: Can you explain to me
 19 why it's signed on page 3 at the bottom?
 20 MR. JOYAL: Because it's out of
 21 order, Mr. McNair, I presume. Is that really
 22 a --
 23 MR. MCNAIR: Yeah, authentication.
 24 MR. JOYAL: I'm sure we'll get it
 25 authenticated. If you want to lodge an

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1 objection.
 2 MR. MCNAIR: How do you plan to
 3 authenticate this?
 4 MR. JOYAL: Sure. I'm going to have
 5 it done by Mrs. B. and under the authority
 6 that V. W. gave to OCY to get copies of
 7 her letters. Under the authority that Mr. B.
 8 gave for his correspondence to be turned over to
 9 OCY.
 10 BY MR. JOYAL:
 11 Q. Let's start with it. It's the third,
 12 dated 6/3/04. "Hey sweetie, sorry about tonight.
 13 I talked to Abby for a while then talked to
 14 Leslie, and actually didn't even get to work on
 15 time. I didn't get off with Leslie until almost
 16 10:30. Sorry. I hope this is what you thought
 17 was going on." "Anyway, Abby said that P. and
 18 Sue had a meeting about me and that she is mad
 19 because they're working against me instead of for
 20 me and that they're going to put up a fight
 21 against me, and that P. will probably be at
 22 most of my visits from now on, so this sucks.
 23 Sorry my writing is messy. Sue just" --
 24 MR. MCNAIR: Could you indicate for
 25 the record where you're skipping?

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1 ABBY B. CONLEY 217

2 MR. JOYAL: I'm not skipping. I'm
3 in the same place.

4 BY MR. JOYAL:
5 Q. "P" will probably be at most of my
6 visits from now on, so this sucks." I read,
7 "Sorry my writing is messy, but I just" -- I
8 can't read that -- just something a 3 page letter
9 to my attorney, "wrote a 3 page letter to my
10 attorney, telling her what Abby, P and Leslie
11 all said. And I told her I wanted to buy a copy
12 of the court transcript."
13 Okay? Did you talk to V W about conversations that P and Sue Deveney
14 had about their plans concerning her case?
15 A. Only in general terms. I wouldn't
16 divulge anything of substance. I don't know what
17 she is referring to there.
18 Q. Let's be simple: Did you talk to her
19 about the caseworker and the supervisor's
20 conversations about her and her case?
21 A. I don't recall any such conversations
22 like that.
23 Q. This does not refresh your recollection
24 as to talking to her on the 3rd about these
25 things?

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1 ABBY B. CONLEY 218

2 A. No, sir, it does not.
3 Q. It doesn't.
4 Why did you say -- let's go to the
5 e-mail, No. 3. Why did you say, "We are in the
6 paper again today, and in the letter to the
7 Editor. God bless you, Deanna"?
8 A. Because she was going to help.
9 Q. V?
10 A. She was going to talk to V's
11 attorney.
12 Q. No. She was going to talk to V,
13 right? "Thanks, but for what." You said, "she
14 will, VW."
15 MR. MCNAIR: Objection.
16 Argumentative. You don't like her answer --
17 BY MR. JOYAL:
18 Q. Did you know she was going to tell V
19 about the detention at all the local hospitals?
20 A. No.
21 Q. You didn't.
22 A. I had --
23 Q. There's no question before you, ma'am.
24 MR. MCNAIR: You can explain your
25 answer.
MR. JOYAL: You can explain it at

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2 the time he asks you about it.
3 MR. MCNAIR: You can explain it now.
4 BY MR. JOYAL:
5 Q. I'm going to show you another letter
6 which is Exhibit No. 15. Have you ever seen this
7 before?
8 A. No.
9 Q. Do you see the date on that letter?
10 A. 6/5.
11 Q. 6/5. These were after the e-mails,
12 right, on 6/4?
13 A. Yes, sir.
14 Q. Mr. McNair has a copy of it. Let's start
15 out, "R, hey," somebody, I can't read that, "I
16 wish I would have told you to call me in the AM
17 one of these days but I didn't know. The reason
18 Deanna called me is to warn me that they're going
19 to detain M, and they're trying to put
20 her in a foster home rather than with your mom.
21 She actually suggested I leave town and have the
22 baby, but if I miss a visit with my kids, P
23 will use that as abandonment."
24 Didn't you just tell me that you wouldn't
25 have done anything to help facilitate a flight?
MR. MCNAIR: Objection.

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2 Argumentative.
3 Q. Did you tell me that?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. And now you've got a letter that says
6 your friend Deanna Cosby, who you encouraged to
7 help her, advised her to leave town.
8 A. Is that what the letter says?
9 MR. MCNAIR: Is that a question?
10 That is what the letter says.
11 A. That's what the letter says.
12 Q. But you don't know whether Deanna Cosby
13 advised her to leave town, do you?
14 A. I don't.
15 Q. And you don't know whether V W
16 will testify that Deanna Cosby advised her to
17 leave town, do you?
18 A. I don't know what --
19 Q. You had told --
20 MR. MCNAIR: Would you please let
21 her answer the question.
22 Q. You don't know what they --
23 A. I don't know what they talked about.
24 That was never my intention for her to contact
25 Vickie and forewarn her. You got to understand,
I'm on the case working with this mother at this

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1 juncture on this date and this time. I am not
 2 going to cause a flight risk.

3 Q. Well, but what you did by giving -- but
 4 you told me earlier in the context of the e-mails
 5 that you thought it was, would have been common
 6 knowledge and that your conversation with her the
 7 day before that we just referred to in the letter
 8 said that she told you that her lawyer had talked
 9 about it, and this letter, I'm just going to read
 10 it to you, and I know you can't testify as to
 11 what she knows or didn't know, but this is in the
 12 context of what you told me about your
 13 conversation with her, and that's solely for that
 14 purpose.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. So I wouldn't -- but it says, "Deanna
 17 called me to warn me that they're gonna detain
 18 M[REDACTED]." The letter before, the day before
 19 said, "Abby said that P[REDACTED] and Sue had a meeting
 20 about me and that she is mad because they're
 21 working against me instead of for me."

22 Your friend and former colleague used
 23 information that you gave her to call V[REDACTED]
 24 W[REDACTED], at least according to this letter, and I
 25 will, you know, concede that it's going to be

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1 between Ms. Cosby and Ms. W[REDACTED] as to what they
 2 said, and advised her to leave town and told her
 3 about the detention orders that you had told her
 4 about on the 4th at 2:29:53 p.m.

5 MR. MCNAIR: Do you have a question?
 6 Feel free to ask it.

7 MR. JOYAL: I will.

BY MR. JOYAL:

9 Q. Does that trouble you as you sit here
 10 today?

11 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. Irrelevant.

12 MR. JOYAL: No, it's not.

BY MR. JOYAL:

14 Q. Does that trouble you as you sit here
 15 today as to what your conversations and your
 16 e-mails to Deanna Cosby may have caused?

17 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. Relevance,
 18 foundation.

19 MR. JOYAL: Fine. She can answer.

20 MR. MCNAIR: Argumentative. Let me
 21 put my objections on the record. You're busting
 22 me all day for not following the rules. I'm
 23 trying to state my objections within the rules.

24 MR. JOYAL: Okay.

25 MR. MCNAIR: You don't like my

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1 objections, too bad.

2 MR. JOYAL: Just object. I'll give
 3 you a continuing objection.

4 MR. MCNAIR: Don't cut me off.

5 MR. JOYAL: I'll give you a
 6 continuing objection for all those grounds, to
 7 try to speed this up.

BY MR. JOYAL:

9 Q. Does it bother you that your friend was
 10 telling a mother to leave?

11 A. I don't believe that Deanna did that.

12 Q. So you believe that --

13 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. You will
 14 please not interrupt her or we are going to cut
 15 this short and we'll take the transcript down to
 16 the judge.

17 MR. JOYAL: Let me do it this way.
 18 I'll withdraw the question.

BY MR. JOYAL:

20 Q. You don't believe that what V[REDACTED] W[REDACTED]
 21 told the father of her child was true.

22 A. No, I don't.

23 Q. Why not?

24 A. Because Deanna is a professional. I
 25 believe that Deanna most likely -- I don't even

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1 know if Deanna called. I thought Deanna called
 2 Amy.

3 Q. Well, let's go a little bit further down,
 4 okay. "P[REDACTED] will use that as abandonment, so I
 5 wouldn't even know where to go, or how to time
 6 it. I want to talk with Amy bad to ask her if
 7 she is confident enough to get her returned to
 8 me, or if I should leave town and what my
 9 consequences would be.

10 "I'm not supposed to know that, Deanna
 11 told me so." I'm not supposed to know that,
 12 Deanna told me so." I'm not supposed to know
 13 about the detention order, is that what you would
 14 think in the context of the letter?

15 A. In the context of this letter?

16 Q. Yes. Did you think when she said, "I'm
 17 not supposed to know this, Deanna told me so,"
 18 that that would be about the detention orders all
 19 over town?

20 A. Yeah, I'm not really -- I don't know.

21 Q. I'm asking you for your opinion as a
 22 professional who has done hundreds of cases and
 23 knows this woman. Do you know, do you think that
 24 is what she was saying, that Deanna told her she
 25 wasn't supposed to know what Deanna had just told

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1 her? Don't look at your lawyer.
 2 A. I don't know what to say. I don't
 3 understand your --
 4 Q. You don't understand my question?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. What part don't you understand?
 7 A. First of all, that V. has an issue --
 8 I had concerns with this mother and how do we
 9 know that this is true, you know what I'm saying?
 10 V. and Deanna, if they did have a
 11 conversation, how would I know?
 12 Q. Well, all I'm asking you is, I'm just
 13 trying to put things into context here, ma'am. I
 14 have one letter the night before that you say
 15 that you don't have a full recollection of the
 16 conversation, but you do say that you probably
 17 talked to her about R. and Sue, and what they
 18 were going to do, although you said you didn't
 19 tell her about the detention order. Then, the
 20 next day, we have the e-mails that we've just
 21 talked about in Exhibit No. 3, okay. And then we
 22 have June 4, and then we have a letter of
 23 June 5th from the woman who you said please help,
 24 for whatever reasons that you told us about,
 25 having a conversation with this professional

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1 woman, you said, and she says she told her to
 2 leave town, and then she says, I'm not supposed
 3 to know about this. I'm just trying to put the
 4 context of when you tell Deanna that there's
 5 detention orders going to all the hospitals, and
 6 Deanna turns around and tells, apparently, unless
 7 she is lying and decides she wants to make stuff
 8 up to talk to R. about, says I'm not supposed to
 9 know this. Tell me, put that into, if you can,
 10 put that into some sort of context for me.

11 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. Calls for a
 12 narrative. I'm going to direct her not to answer
 13 the question in that form.

14 MR. JOYAL: It calls for a
 15 narrative. Okay.

BY MR. JOYAL:

16 Q. Tell me how, if you can, put into context
 17 for me how this letter doesn't relate to your
 18 e-mail to Deanna Cosby about detention orders at
 19 all the local hospitals?

20 A. How it doesn't?

21 Q. How it doesn't. How it does not relate
 22 to your telling Deanna Cosby about the detention
 23 orders at all the local hospitals.

24 A. It doesn't -- I don't know how to answer

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1 that.
 2 Q. Let me try it this way: There's a
 3 relationship, is there not, between your telling
 4 Deanna Cosby about the detention orders at all
 5 the local hospitals and her telling -- and then
 6 V. W. writing to R. on the 5th of
 7 June that Deanna told her about the detention
 8 orders. There's a relationship there, is there
 9 not?

10 MR. MCNAIR: Objection.
 11 Argumentative.

12 Q. Yes or no.

13 A. I don't know.

14 Q. You don't know?

15 A. I don't know.

16 Q. Have you ever spoken, during the course
 17 of all the time since your separation from OCY,
 18 have you ever talked to Deanna Cosby and asked
 19 her whether or not she ever talked and divulged
 20 any of the information you had spoken with her
 21 about in the e-mails?

22 A. If she -- I'm sorry?

23 Q. Did she ever divulge to V. W. or
 24 anyone else, any of the stuff that you and she
 25 e-mailed each other about?

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1 A. I don't think we have, no.
 2 Q. You don't think --
 3 A. We have talked about this, and me being
 4 fired, yes.

5 Q. But did you ask her if she ever divulged
 6 any of the information?

7 A. I don't think I've ever asked her that.

8 Q. Why not?

9 A. Because I didn't have reason to think

10 that I should.

11 Q. Well, now, you say you've never seen
 12 these letters before?

13 A. No, I haven't.

14 Q. Even during the time that you were
 15 getting ready to go to the civil service hearing,
 16 you had never seen these letters?

17 A. No. They might have been in the file,
 18 for whatever reason, I didn't read them.

19 Q. You didn't read them?

20 A. No. I didn't see them.

21 Q. Let's go --

22 MR. MCNAIR: Further object on
 23 relevance. This did not form the basis for her
 24 termination.

25 MR. JOYAL: How do you know that,

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1 how do you know that? That is based upon what
 2 your complaint says? That's based upon what your
 3 complaint says. I don't think you can talk about
 4 what their determination was about, how they
 5 investigated -- it's something different than
 6 what they said at the interview where she was
 7 terminated. I'm sure the jury and the judge --

8 MR. McNAIR: I don't believe these
 9 were in the possession of the county when she was
 10 terminated.

11 MR. JOYAL: You don't think so.
 12 MR. McNAIR: I don't think so. I'm
 13 dying to find out.

14 MR. JOYAL: You will find out.

15 BY MR. JOYAL:

16 Q. Did you know, by the way, that C [REDACTED]
 17 B [REDACTED] told OCY that there was someone leaking
 18 information to V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] about her stuff? Do
 19 you know that?

20 A. Hum-mm.

21 Q. Did you know that C [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] called up
 22 and said that she expressed some concerns to you
 23 about V [REDACTED]'s parenting skills and that the next
 24 time there was a visit, all those concerns that
 25 she had on behaviors had changed?

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1 A. I never worked on that part of the case.
 2 Q. Did you know that she said that?
 3 A. No.
 4 Q. Do you remember Ms. B [REDACTED] coming to you,
 5 R [REDACTED]s mother, coming to you and expressing
 6 concerns to you about V [REDACTED]'s parenting skills
 7 and her behavior?

8 A. I only met her one time, and that was at
 9 a court hearing.

10 Q. Did she ever tell you any of that stuff?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You don't remember that?

13 A. No.

14 Q. So if she were to testify that she did,
 15 she would be mistaken?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. If she were to testify that she was
 18 concerned that there was someone leaking
 19 information about the file to people, to V [REDACTED],
 20 she would be mistaken?

21 A. Yes.

22 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 4

23 was marked for identification.)

24 BY MR. JOYAL:

25 Q. I'm going to go back through these and

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1 try to get through here, rather than go through
 2 them page by page. Take a look at Exhibit No. 4.
 3 These are e-mails from an attorney by the name of
 4 Mike Fisher to you.

5 A. (Witness reviews document.)

6 Q. Have you seen those before?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. This is a lawyer that Deanna Cosby had
 9 contacted on your behalf, right?

10 A. No.

11 Q. No? Is it a lawyer you contacted on your
 12 own behalf?

13 A. No.

14 Q. How did he happen to have your e-mail
 15 address and be talking to you about slander and
 16 e-mails and what your supervisor may have said?

17 A. As I told you before, Michelle Shetter, I
 18 caught her several times looking in my e-mail,
 19 and it really frustrated me that she was going
 20 through my e-mail and then saying things to
 21 people that I'm conveying confidential
 22 information, and so I put this, I e-mailed this
 23 to myself.

24 Q. You e-mailed Mike Fisher to yourself.

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. So Mike Fisher is a figment of your
 2 imagination?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. LANE: What is the date on that?

5 MR. JOYAL: These start, the top
 6 page, Mark, is June 11.

7 BY MR. JOYAL:

8 Q. So when we depose Ms. Cosby, and we have
 9 the e-mail from her to you on the last page,
 10 Friday, June 11, 2004, 10:15 where it says, to
 11 Conley, Abby, "I have spoken to an attorney re:
 12 your inquiry re: the email system at ECOCY."
 13 Your testimony is that there's a guy named Mike
 14 Fisher who doesn't exist and you made him up and
 15 made an e-mail up?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. For him?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How did you happen to be able to get an
 20 e-mail at Mike Fisher at Pennsylvania.USA.com?

21 A. You can register any name you want. He
 22 was the only attorney that I could think of to
 23 put in the subject line. This was something
 24 that --

25 Q. What were you going to do with this?

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1 A. I was going to leave it on my desk top
 2 because Michelle kept going into my e-mail
 3 system, and I thought, well, if she is going to
 4 walk around telling people I'm divulging
 5 confidential information and all this other
 6 stuff, I'm going to give her something to talk
 7 about. So I registered and put it -- I ended up
 8 not playing a practical joke on her, because it
 9 was deceptive. I ended up deleting it, but what
 10 she was doing, because I just -- I left my desk
 11 top open, my e-mails open. That's when she was
 12 doing it. And so what I did is, I, if you go
 13 into the system, you'll see that the following
 14 day, when I went in to work, I deleted them. I
 15 didn't leave them on the desk top. But what I
 16 was doing was hoping that Michelle Shetter would
 17 do what she was doing and go through my e-mail
 18 and say, oh, my gosh, Abby Conley talked to an
 19 attorney. I was trying to pay her back for being
 20 a busybody.

21 Q. You were trying to pay her back.

22 A. (Witness nodding head.)

23 MR. MCNAIR: For being a busybody, I
 24 think she said.

25 MR. JOYAL: I heard her say that.

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1 MR. MCNAIR: Okay.
 2 A. I ended up not playing the practical joke
 3 on her. I ended up deleting it.

4 Q. Let's go backwards. Let's go to the one,
 5 two, third page from the back.

6 MR. MCNAIR: We haven't been given
 7 this in any order.

8 Q. We'll do the one to Abby Conley from
 9 Deanna Cosby at 9:59 a.m.

10 A. I have that.

11 Q. You have that?

12 A. I'm sure he has it in his hand.

13 MR. MCNAIR: I have the ones from
 14 Attorney Mike Fisher.

BY MR. JOYAL:

16 Q. Let me show you this one, ma'am. It's at
 17 9:59 in the morning and it's from you to her.

18 A. (Witness nodding head.)

19 Q. Can you identify that, is that something
 20 you can identify?

21 A. Hold on a second. This is from Deanna to
 22 I, June 11.

23 Q. Let me see it. No, it's from you to her.
 24 See the from line? From?

25 A. Okay.

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1 Q. To, July 11th. Read it for me.
 2 A. "I have had some problems." She "called
 3 me into her office and said it came to her
 4 attention that someone from her unit had sent out
 5 client information over the email system to a
 6 secondary email outside this office."

7 Q. Who is she?

8 A. Sue.

9 Q. Sue Deveney?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that was after --

12 A. Michelle Shetter.

13 Q. No, but that was after the e-mails that
 14 we had been talking about in Exhibit 3 where you
 15 had sent information out to a secondary source on
 16 the e-mail system?

17 A. I did not view this as sending out
 18 information.

19 Q. That wasn't my question as to what you
 20 viewed, ma'am. What she told you was someone
 21 from her unit had sent information about a client
 22 over the e-mail system to a secondary e-mail
 23 source out of the office. That's what she said.

24 A. (Witness nodding head.)

25 Q. And she told you that. Right?

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1 June 11th. How many days was that before
 2 July 24th, when you went to the C [REDACTED] hearing?

3 A. How many days?

4 Q. Yes. Is that over a month before?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And during that period of time, by the
 7 way, you also made up a thing for a Mike Fisher
 8 at Mike Fisher at aSurfer.com? "Get back to me
 9 on last name." See that one?

10 MR. MCNAIR: No, we don't.

11 MR. JOYAL: She has it.

BY MR. JOYAL:

13 Q. So you made up another --

14 A. I wasn't sure if that one was going
 15 through. The Pennsylvania USA is -- I wasn't
 16 sure if this e-mail system was working.

17 Q. So you, just to make sure that -- just to
 18 make sure that you had your practical joke, as
 19 you called it, or your prank, all set up, you
 20 decided to even give him another e-mail address?

21 MR. MCNAIR: Objection,
 22 argumentative.

23 Q. Did you give him another e-mail address,
 24 aSurfer.com?

25 MR. MCNAIR: Asked and answered.

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1 Q. Yes, right?
 2 A. I don't remember.
 3 MR. McNAIR: You asked her if she
 4 authored that e-mail.
 5 Q. Did you author that e-mail?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 MR. LANE: Let's identify this.
 8 A. Both of them. I remember going to two
 9 different e-mails, and one I couldn't remember,
 10 if something was wrong with the e-mail system,
 11 like I couldn't -- I wasn't sure if it went
 12 through.
 13 MR. LANE: So the record is clear --
 14 MR. JOYAL: These are all attached
 15 together in Exhibit 3.
 16 MR. McNAIR: They haven't been
 17 provided to us in that form, though, so I'm not
 18 sure I have a complete copy.
 19 MR. LANE: For the record, though,
 20 when Mr. McNair referred to this e-mail a few
 21 moments ago, it was referred to Friday, June 1st
 22 2004 through e-mail 134, ATT Mike
 23 Fisher@aSurfer.com. Is that it?
 24 MR. JOYAL: That's the one I'm
 25 referring to.

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1 BY MR. JOYAL:
 2 Q. And then there was another one at
 3 9:02 p.m. which was titled "your supervisor is
 4 not very bright"?
 5 A. Well, I figure if she's going to sit and
 6 say something, she might as well have something
 7 to chew on.
 8 Q. "Do not take your supervisor's advice, she
 9 does not sound very bright! Okay, I'll call
 10 tonight! What is your home e-mail? Mike."
 11 A. We ended up not playing it, if it's any
 12 consolation.
 13 Q. Ma'am, it doesn't affect me one way or
 14 the other, to be honest with you.
 15 A. It just -- never mind.
 16 Q. Let's go on a little bit. Let's go to
 17 Exhibit No. 5.
 18 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 5
 19 was marked for identification.)
 20 MR. McNAIR: Do you want to give me
 21 a hint?
 22 BY MR. JOYAL:
 23 Q. Yes. Exhibit No. 5 has three things in
 24 here, three pages. One of them is an e-mail from
 25 Mike -- it says Pam Biroscak on the top.

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And it says, it's from you to her on
 3 August 9 --
 4 A. Him.
 5 Q. To Mrs. Biroscak.
 6 A. I'm sorry.
 7 Q. Right, August 9. I have been -- this
 8 one. She has it in her hand.
 9 "I have been told by three different
 10 people that it has been determined that I invited
 11 the media to both of the Hearings I was
 12 subpoenaed to.
 13 "Usually I dismiss gossip, but since this
 14 has the potential of hurting me, I am willing to
 15 approach it directly.
 16 "I am more than willing to call Ed
 17 Palattella and have him write a letter,
 18 explaining who invited him, or maybe someone
 19 should call Ed and ask him out right if I did.
 20 "Let me know how I can help the truth to
 21 be told." And then on the first page, this other
 22 stuff apparently is like some sort of chain
 23 letter or something in the middle?
 24 A. Yes, Maureen Foor sent.
 25 Q. Then there's a reply from her to you, on

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1 the 10th, "I read your note about gossip, please
 2 do not call or contact anyone at this time."
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. So, at some point in time, Ed Palattella
 5 showed up at two hearings that you were going to
 6 testify at, right?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. One was --
 9 MR. McNAIR: What number is this
 10 exhibit?
 11 MR. JOYAL: No. 5.
 12 A. He was at both.
 13 Q. He was at both, and people were sort of
 14 perplexed in the agency as to why a reporter
 15 would be at hearings that he had never attended
 16 before, is that right?
 17 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 18 Q. And you didn't invite him?
 19 A. No.
 20 Q. Who invited him, did you ever find out?
 21 A. I don't know. I think that with Vickie's
 22 case, we had discussed --
 23 Q. We being...?
 24 A. The worker from Project First Step. What
 25 had happened is the Times News was awarded the

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1 right to attend hearings in regards to the
 2 children, and V [REDACTED] was encouraged to talk to
 3 him in regard to her case, so I'm thinking she
 4 invited --

5 Q. Who encouraged V [REDACTED] to talk to a
 6 reporter about her case? You and whom?

7 A. I think we discussed it, that she had the
 8 right to have him there.

9 Q. Who is we?

10 A. I don't necessarily think that anybody
 11 encouraged her, but told her that she had a right
 12 to do that, that he was allowed to be present, as
 13 far as O [REDACTED]'s S [REDACTED] case, I don't know who
 14 talked to Ed about that. But in V [REDACTED]'s case,
 15 she was told that the Times News was -- it was
 16 public knowledge that we were allowed to -- that
 17 the Times News was allowed to be at those
 18 hearings.

19 Q. I need you to identify someone for me.
 20 Who is Project First Step?

21 A. Project First Step is an organization
 22 that works alongside with the Office of Children
 23 and Youth staff.

24 Q. To do what?

25 A. To help a parent through the process of

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cases.

1 Q. Now, you say we. Was it you and a person
 2 from Project First Step that had the
 3 conversation?

4 A. Her and I, yeah, I had spoken to her
 5 about the hearing, that staff -- the Times News
 6 was allowed to be at the hearings.

7 Q. Let me ask you a question, then. Under
 8 what authority as an OCY employee did you have a
 9 right to talk to anybody about inviting reporters
 10 to hearings regarding families of children, what
 11 right did you have?

12 A. MR. McNAIR: The First Amendment.
 13 Read the complaint.

14 Q. Let's go. Did you go to your supervisor
 15 and say, was that a policy?

16 A. There was no policy. It was brand new.

17 Q. It was brand new. And you know that on
 18 both of those occasions when Ed Palattella was
 19 there, OCY lawyers asked that he be excluded,
 20 isn't that right?

21 A. In V [REDACTED]'s case, I don't know about the
 22 C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED] system.

23 A. MR. McNAIR: Would you let her
 24 finish her answer?

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1 Q. In V [REDACTED]'s case, in V [REDACTED]'s case, you
 2 never testified, did you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And that was supposed to be after this
 5 memo, right?

6 A. After, I'm sorry.

7 Q. He was there, and you didn't testify.

8 The hearing for V [REDACTED] was --

9 A. Right, I didn't testify.

10 Q. -- was August 9th?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. And you did not testify.

13 A. (Witness shaking head.)

14 Q. And Palattella was there. Right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And the C [REDACTED] case, Palattella was
 17 there, so which date, and you were not involved
 18 in Project First Step, having a conversation with
 19 you about someone inviting Palattella to go to
 20 that hearing, is that right?

21 A. No.

22 Q. And of all the hearings that you went to
 23 prior to July 24th, 2004, and after that, how
 24 many times did Ed Palattella show up?

25 A. I don't know.

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1 Q. You don't know. Did he ever show up --

2 A. I think he showed up two times.

3 Q. Which two?

4 A. V [REDACTED]'s case, and the C [REDACTED] case.

5 Q. And the C [REDACTED] case where you testified
 6 about being afraid to lose your job?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And the V [REDACTED] case where you were
 9 subpoenaed by Amy at your home. Right?

10 A. I don't remember how I got a subpoena.

11 Yes. I think it was at my home.

12 Q. They had your home address.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And the subpoena that you got for the
 15 C [REDACTED] case was also sent to your home, was it
 16 not?

17 A. No.

18 Q. No? How did Jerry Valella (phonetic)
 19 have a copy of your draft report?

20 A. He didn't, I don't think he did.

21 Q. He didn't? I think he showed it to you,
 22 did he not?

23 A. He showed me what Sue Deveney submitted
 24 to the courts. That was not my document.

25 Q. He also showed you your document, though,

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1 didn't he?
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. He didn't?
 4 A. He asked the Court to -- actually, Judge
 5 Kelly said to stop the hearing and he went out
 6 and made copies of my original.
 7 Q. Your original?
 8 A. Pam Biroscak had asked me to bring it off
 9 my hard drive.
 10 Q. Who did?
 11 A. Pam Biroscak.
 12 Q. Asked you to bring a copy of your
 13 original off of your hard drive?
 14 A. Yes, off my hard drive is what I brought
 15 to the courts. Jerry Valella had a copy of what
 16 was submitted at the April hearing.
 17 Q. Let me ask you a question. The changes
 18 that were made in the context of that report to
 19 you were things like, where you had said, you
 20 gave an opinion about parenting skills, right?
 21 You said she showed exceptional parenting skills.
 22 A. Something like that.
 23 Q. And how many times were you asked to get
 24 that report to Sue Deveney, do you remember?
 25 A. She, on April 16th, I submitted the

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1 original. She asked me to make corrections and
 2 almost a page deleted from the mother's document,
 3 and I resubmitted it on April 19, the corrected
 4 version.
 5 Q. The corrections she suggested you make?
 6 A. Yes. Resubmitted it, and then I heard
 7 shortly after that hearing from the CASA worker
 8 that there was no positive language in my court
 9 summary, so I knew that the April 19th court
 10 summary, the second document, had been changed,
 11 because there was positive language in it.
 12 Q. Let me read to you, and if you want to
 13 read along, that's fine. Go to page 71 of the
 14 transcript.
 15 A. Okay.
 16 Q. Start at line 6.
 17 A. "What is your involvement in the case?"
 18 Q. We'll go through it. You told them what
 19 it was, right?
 20 A. Um-hmm.
 21 Q. And then it goes down to line 17 and the
 22 question to you was, "You produced a report
 23 summary that was attached to the Court summary
 24 that was provided in April, is that right?"
 25 You answered, "Yes."

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1 The question was, "Do you have a copy of
 2 that with you, or do you want" --
 3 And you said, "I have what I had on my
 4 hard drive at work."
 5 And he asked you the next question, "Is
 6 that the same as what is attached to the Court
 7 summary?"
 8 And your response was, "I'm sorry, I
 9 don't understand."
 10 And he said, "Is that the same as the
 11 text of what is on your hard drive at work, is
 12 that the same as what is in the Court summary?"
 13 And you said, "I'm not really sure. My
 14 supervisor had made some changes to my court
 15 summary, so I'm not really sure what the final
 16 product was that was submitted."
 17 And then he goes on, "Let me have you
 18 look at what has been submitted by Mr. Cauley,"
 19 and Cauley spoke about the April 19th and
 20 April 16th reports, right?
 21 A. Um-hmm.
 22 Q. He says, "Look at what was submitted to
 23 the Court compared to what you have." Right?
 24 So your recollection is that you did not
 25 provide -- he did not have a copy of what you had

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1 on your hard drive, but that the judge stopped
 2 the proceedings because Pam Biroscak told you to
 3 bring it?
 4 A. I knew that my document had been altered.
 5 Q. How did Valella know your document had
 6 been altered?
 7 A. You're going to have to ask him. I don't
 8 know.
 9 Q. Did you give it to him?
 10 A. No.
 11 Q. Did you give it to anyone so that he
 12 could, they could give it to him?
 13 A. He would have gotten it through the
 14 process, OCY submits the Court summaries.
 15 Q. After they have been approved by Marilyn
 16 Deveney, is that correct?
 17 A. Sue Deveney?
 18 Q. Sue Deveney.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. So he would have had what was submitted
 21 by Sue Deveney, not what you had done, so he
 22 wouldn't have known there were changes on it,
 23 would he, unless someone had given him a copy of
 24 yours?
 25 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

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1 A. He didn't have a copy of mine. That is
2 why the judge stopped the proceedings. We knew
3 at this juncture that the document that I had
4 typed was different than the one that was
5 submitted in April.

6 Q. How many documents in cases that you
7 you've been to has the document that you
8 originally typed been changed and submitted
9 differently, in the four years that you had been
10 there before, how many times had your supervisor
11 changed a document and had you sign off on it?

12 A. Through that --

13 Q. All that period of time.

14 A. Just deleting words without me -- never.

15 Q. Never?

16 A. Never.

17 Q. Did your supervisor ever tell you that
18 things such as excellent parenting skills were
19 not observations, but they were opinions and that
20 you should just put, I observed her doing X, Y
21 and Z?

22 A. Opinions are a part of the template. If
23 you look at the Court summary, it --

24 MR. MCNAIR: Answer his question.
25 Had you ever been told that by your supervisor

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1 not to put those opinions in the Court summary?

2 THE WITNESS: No. Just grammatical
3 changes.

4 BY MR. JOYAL:

5 Q. Why did you testify during the course of
6 that time that you said that, you know, on
7 page 80, what we talked about earlier, "Did she
8 ever say anything to you about the nature of your
9 opinions, whether they were accurate or whether
10 she wanted them to be the agency's opinions?"
11 And you answered, "Essentially, I think it was
12 agreed upon."

13 It was agreed upon between whom, you and
14 Ms. Deveney?

15 A. Until you understand, at that particular
16 time, Sue and I had a meeting. This was not --
17 I'm talking about it in the context of a
18 conversation her and I had, not in the context of
19 my court summary.

20 Q. Well, ma'am, all of the questions that
21 you were asked in the context of this testimony
22 were about the differences between your court
23 summary that you had written on April 16th and
24 19th, and what was submitted by the agency
25 attached thereto. So the context, apparently,

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1 unless you misunderstood Mr. Valella throughout
2 that, was that that was what you were talking
3 about, correct?

4 A. I'm trying to understand your question.

5 Q. Ma'am, why would there be any
6 conversation about policy directives regarding
7 your reports or how you are to assess if what you
8 said here, that the context was, you just were
9 having a conversation with her and it had nothing
10 to do with your reports?

11 A. I still don't understand how you want me
12 to answer that question.

13 Q. I want you to answer it truthfully.

14 A. Well --

15 MR. MCNAIR: Make it make sense.

16 A. It doesn't make sense to me. I'm sorry.

17 Q. Let's go backwards. Let's go to page 79.
18 Let's go back to page 78. We'll start at line 7.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. "Thank you very much." This is
21 Mr. Valella. "I might have a few more questions
22 for Ms. Conley. You're still assigned to this
23 case?"

24 A. "No, sir."

25 Q. "When did that happen?"

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1 "Several weeks ago, I think it's been
2 three weeks now."

3 "Was any particular reason given to you
4 for your removal from this case?"

5 "Yes, sir."

6 "What was that?"

7 "I requested to be taken off the case."

8 "For what particular reason?"

9 "Because I really -- I didn't share the
10 opinion of my supervisor and it was apparent that
11 she -- that my opinion, professional involvement,
12 was different than her professional opinion, and
13 I just thought it would be best and I asked to
14 not only be removed off the case but off of the
15 unit as well."

16 Now, this was the second unit that you
17 had asked to be transferred off of, right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Both because you had some issues,
20 difference of opinion between your opinion and
21 the opinion of the social worker supervisor,
22 people that had the practical education and the
23 education about this type of thing, correct?

24 A. I asked to be removed because I do not
25 agree with not servicing clients.

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1 Q. Answer my question.
 2 MR. McNAIR: She answered your
 3 question.
 4 Q. Let me ask it to you again, and I'll ask
 5 you until you answer it the way I believe is
 6 responsive.
 7 A. Okay.
 8 Q. For two times you had differences of
 9 opinion as to how a case was handled between
 10 yourself, right, with your background, and a
 11 professional social worker with a degree, either
 12 a bachelor's or a master's, correct?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And would it be fair to say that you
 15 believe that your opinion about how the case
 16 should be handled was better than theirs?
 17 A. I don't believe that.
 18 Q. Okay. Now, we'll go to 79.
 19 "Now, the person who you were talking
 20 about as a supervisor is whom?"
 21 And you said, "Sue Deveney, she is my
 22 supervisor."
 23 "She is? Would she be the one that would
 24 have made the alteration?"
 25 "Yeah. Just so it's understood that Sue

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1 has the right to correct my court summaries, I
 2 have -- my new supervisor told me to take this
 3 information off my hard drive, but I have an
 4 e-mail with a directive."

5 There was some objections. And both
 6 lawyers said you were unresponsive.

7 Let me ask you this question: When you
 8 say my new supervisor told me to take this
 9 information off my hard drive, are you intimating
 10 or testifying that your new supervisor wanted you
 11 just to delete all of that information from your
 12 hard drive?

13 A. No. She wanted me to have a copy of the
 14 original e-mail that I sent to Sue Deveney on
 15 April 19th.

16 Q. All right. And then we go to your line
 17 15, "Your supervisor, of course, has the right to
 18 supervise what actually goes to the court, is
 19 that right?"

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You said, "Yes, sir, and correct my
 22 summary, that is the procedure."

23 And then he went on to ask you questions
 24 about accurate alterations, direct observations,
 25 right, and you said you had only been there a

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1 couple times during the visits.
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. "She has come in and talked to me a
 4 couple times, but," and then he said, "Did she
 5 give you any other policy directives regarding
 6 how your reports ought to be written or how you
 7 were to assess?"
 8 And you said, "I'm supposed to submit
 9 them in an attachment to e-mail. I have an
 10 original directive from Ms. Deveney that I have
 11 to send all court summaries to her in a Word
 12 attachment so that they can correct it in the
 13 event that I'm not there." Not where?
 14 A. Not at the agency.
 15 Q. And then that is when we get to, "Did she
 16 say anything to you about the nature of your
 17 opinions, whether they were accurate or whether
 18 she wanted them to be the agency's opinions?"
 19 And you said, "Essentially, I think it
 20 was agreed upon that in my capacity I'm not
 21 really qualified, I'm not educated in social
 22 service. My education is through something
 23 else." That is the Bible Institute, right?
 24 A. Yes, sir.
 25 MR. McNAIR: Do you have a problem

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1 with that?

2 MR. JOYAL: Do you want to keep
 3 interrupting?

4 MR. McNAIR: I really don't
 5 appreciate your derisive tone and waving the back
 6 of your hand to my client when you mention her
 7 education. You've done it several times.

8 MR. JOYAL: Very good.

9 BY MR. JOYAL:

10 Q. "And it's not really my role to issue
 11 opinions or judgments against the families that I
 12 work with. My job is simply and humbly to
 13 facilitate visits and to make documentations of
 14 the observations I have, so really my opinion in
 15 any case really has no weight. That is just the
 16 nature of my position at Children's Services."
 17 Okay?

18 A. Um-hmm.

19 Q. You said -- so if Ms. Deveney looked at
 20 your summary and said everything in here are
 21 opinions as opposed to observations, she has the
 22 right to tell you that and to have you change it.
 23 Is that right?

24 A. No. She does not.

25 Q. Well, you said she did.

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1 MR. McNAIR: That's argumentative.
 2 Q. Didn't you say she did?
 3 A. She has the right professionally, based
 4 on -- what I'm talking about here is the
 5 observations that I see through the visits. The
 6 only person that is qualified to talk about those
 7 observations are me. In fact, we are encouraged
 8 in the Court summary to write our impressions
 9 based on observations. What I'm stating here is
 10 I'm not qualified to dictate one way or the
 11 other. I'm not having any problem with her
 12 having an opinion one way or the other. That's
 13 not what I was saying in that particular part of
 14 the court. And the other thing I said before is,
 15 we had a meeting.

16 Q. Let's move on.

17 MR. LANE: Let's take a break.

18 (Recess.)

19 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 6

20 was marked for identification.)

21 BY MR. JOYAL:

22 Q. Ma'am, you can show that to Mr. McNair,
 23 I'm sure he will get a copy when the exhibits are
 24 put together. It's Exhibit No. 6. Let me just
 25 identify it. This is an e-mail from...

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1 A. Me to Sue.
 2 Q. It starts, Friday July 9, the first entry
 3 is on the third page, and it is at 7:33 a.m. to
 4 Sue Deveney. Take a look, show it to Mr. McNair,
 5 third page. Last page. We're starting from the
 6 rear, because I think they usually start -- that
 7 is at your home address, abby@ilovejesus.net,
 8 that is your home e-mail address?

9 A. Christian -- this is from my Christian
 10 net.

11 Q. Christian.net. Do you have multiple
 12 e-mail addresses?

13 A. On the Internet, you can sign up for
 14 different -- they have different domains for
 15 free.

16 Q. These are all web sites, though, right?

17 A. No. They're -- I guess you can call them
 18 web sites. They're e-mails, free e-mails that
 19 you can sign up for.

20 Q. So if I went to -- what is this one?

21 A. Christian.net, you can register.

22 Q. That is not a web site there, or did you
 23 set the web site up? Do you know what I mean?

24 A. I guess there's a web site, but it's an
 25 e-mail service, web site.

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1 Q. But it's obviously a Christian web site.
 2 A. Yeah. There's millions of them that you
 3 can sign up for.
 4 Q. So we went through, we're starting on
 5 this one which is --
 6 A. We're still looking for it.
 7 Q. 7:33.

8 MR. McNAIR: I don't think I was
 9 given a copy of that.

10 MR. JOYAL: You should have been.
 11 MR. McNAIR: I agree it should have

12 been there.

13 BY MR. JOYAL:
 14 Q. If you look at this, the first one has

15 Pam Biroscak's name on the top.

16 MR. McNAIR: Biroscak.

17 THE WITNESS: It really isn't in
 18 there.

19 MR. McNAIR: That's not it.

20 MR. JOYAL: July 19th? I'll let you
 21 look at these. Take a quick look.

22 BY MR. JOYAL:

23 Q. All I'm going to ask you, ma'am, is, if
 24 we move quickly through, those are e-mails that
 25 you had back and forth between yourself and Sue

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1 Deveney, is that correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. In July, July 9th?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. This was before you testified and you
 6 were asked to come and testify in the C. case, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. At that point in time, you and she were
 9 discussing her concerns about the release of
 10 confidential information from files, is that
 11 correct?

12 A. Hold on a second. That was not about
 13 confidential -- what I'm referring to in this is
 14 a meeting that she and I had. She had accused me
 15 of saying something about P. W.

16 Q. We'll get into that. But those are
 17 e-mails that, as of July 9th, there had been
 18 conversations between you and Sue Deveney about
 19 possible matters or accusations of some sort of
 20 child abuse against P. W. having been
 21 discussed outside the agency, is that correct?

22 A. She never came out and said that. I
 23 assumed that is what she was -- that she said,
 24 because I think the way that she presented it to

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1 me is that V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]'s paramour knew about
 2 P [REDACTED] W [REDACTED], and when she said that, anybody
 3 working at the agency knew that P [REDACTED] had a child
 4 that committed suicide, and I assumed that that
 5 is what she meant. She didn't come right out and
 6 say that, but that is what I derived.

7 Q. And you believed she was accusing you of
 8 doing that?

9 A. She implied that I somehow had something
 10 to do with R [REDACTED] knowing this information about
 11 P [REDACTED]. I never even met R [REDACTED]. It was silly.

12 Q. It was silly and you said that there were
 13 other people, everybody in the agency knew about
 14 the suicide, right?

15 A. Well, I shouldn't say everybody. But the
 16 people that have been there after the — I think
 17 it happened right after I started.

18 Q. Did you know, did she tell you that R [REDACTED]
 19 B [REDACTED] had sent her a letter?

20 A. No.

21 Q. She didn't.

22 A. Hum-mm.

23 Q. Take a look at Exhibit No. 19. Have you
 24 ever seen that before?

25 A. No.

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1 Q. May I have it back. I want to read you
 2 some stuff out of that. Mr. McNair has a copy of
 3 it right there.

4 MR. MCNAIR: He may.

5 Q. 9 July. He says, "I am writing this
 6 letter to you with some questions that I have
 7 regarding my daughter, M [REDACTED], and her being
 8 detained." This goes on about, the first
 9 paragraph is about visits, the second paragraph
 10 talks about M [REDACTED] not being able to visit.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Third paragraph talks about upset with
 13 how his daughter's detention was handled, right?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Then we go to the second page and the
 16 second full paragraph talks about him getting a
 17 lawyer, right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. The next paragraph says, "I was also
 20 informed that P [REDACTED] was investigated for
 21 grabbing, shaking, and yelling at D [REDACTED].
 22 Though your agency stated that these allegations
 23 could not be proven, given her personal history
 24 and other incidents I have been made aware of, I
 25 trust you and your agency will do all that you

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1 can to ensure that P [REDACTED] is not a threat to
 2 M [REDACTED] in any way. I would like another
 3 person to be present with P [REDACTED] at any time that
 4 she is alone with my daughter. I will pursue all
 5 legal avenues against her, you, and OCY if
 6 M [REDACTED] is harmed in any way while in P [REDACTED]'s
 7 care, or if I suspect she has been harmed in any
 8 way. Given what happened to her child, I am very
 9 confused as to how she is allowed to hold the
 10 position that she has now.

11 "Ms. Deveney, I was also informed that
 12 M [REDACTED] was seen by a visiting nurse. I have
 13 informed P [REDACTED] by letter and voice mail that I
 14 want to be notified each and every time M [REDACTED]
 15 is seen by a doctor or receives any medical
 16 attention." That is dated July 9.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. Mr. B [REDACTED] somehow had information
 19 concerning a child not his own, is that right?

20 A. According to that letter.

21 Q. According to that letter. And that was
 22 one of V [REDACTED]'s kids, right?

23 A. D [REDACTED], yes.

24 Q. That is the same information that you
 25 spoke with Sarah Savchikis and Mike Kasmer about

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1 on --

2 A. Char Calobsky (phonetic)?
 3 Q. No, Savchikis, S-A-V-C-H-I-K-I-S?
 4 A. Could I see that? I don't know who that
 5 is.

6 Q. You can't see it.

7 MR. MCNAIR: Then she's not going to
 8 answer a question.

9 Q. I am going to ask her a question. Do you
 10 recall having a conversation with an investigator
 11 from the Department of Public Welfare by the name
 12 of Sarah Savchikis?

13 A. I did have a conversation with the
 14 Department of Public Welfare.

15 Q. Did you remember telling her that you
 16 saw, that you needed to save children who cannot
 17 speak for themselves? Did you tell her that?

18 A. I can't recall my exact words.

19 Q. Something to that effect?

20 MR. MCNAIR: Asked and answered.

21 Q. I'm asking if something to that effect,
 22 if it's not that exactly...

23 A. I really don't remember.

24 Q. Did you know why you were there before
 25 you were told by Ms. Savchikis as to what she

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1 wanted to talk to you about?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. How did you know that?
 4 A. Because they told me she was coming.
 5 Q. But did they tell you she was coming for
 6 a specific purpose?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. What purpose was that?
 9 A. To talk to me about how P. grabbed
 10 D. 's face.
 11 Q. Now, would that not have been part of an
 12 allegation of child abuse?
 13 A. Would it not have been?
 14 Q. Yes. Was there not a child abuse
 15 allegation made against Ms. W.?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Who made it? Was it you?
 18 A. I definitely reported what I saw. I did
 19 not view it as child abuse. I thought it was
 20 inappropriate.
 21 Q. Who then would have classified it as
 22 child abuse and reported it --
 23 A. I don't know.
 24 Q. You know there was a referral made on the
 25 23rd of June for child abuse, alleging child

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1 abuse by P. W. on this child, isn't that
 2 true? You knew that.
 3 A. I did not know that.
 4 Q. You didn't know there was an allegation
 5 of child abuse?
 6 A. I knew that what she did was wrong. I
 7 didn't view it -- I didn't speculate as to
 8 whether or not it was child abuse.
 9 Q. What did you --
 10 A. It was inappropriate.
 11 Q. Who else saw that besides you?
 12 A. Just her and I.
 13 Q. Did you ever tell her that someone from
 14 CASA had seen it?
 15 A. I thought perhaps CASA had seen it
 16 because CASA had called me shortly after that and
 17 said that she had some concerns about P.
 18 W., and I thought when she said that, that
 19 possibly she had seen it, because she ended up --
 20 Q. Who is that individual?
 21 A. I forget her name. She hardly showed up,
 22 though.
 23 Q. She hardly showed up as well?
 24 A. Only -- she was a CASA worker. She
 25 didn't have to be at all the visits.

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1 Q. How many visits do you think she should
 2 have been at?
 3 A. I don't know. Because V. 's case had
 4 a lot of variation. There were supervised,
 5 unsupervised. There was --
 6 Q. Did you say to this investigator that
 7 both you and D. gasped for air at the same
 8 time, that you had a connection feeling, that the
 9 child was saying save me, why aren't you helping
 10 me?
 11 A. Her eyes welled up and she looked at me
 12 and went (indicating).
 13 Q. And did you at the same time --
 14 A. I gasped, not like that, but I
 15 definitely, it took me back when she grabbed the
 16 child by the face.
 17 Q. And did you describe P. as a sick
 18 person that maligns families, is demonic, inhuman
 19 and shows no dignity when working with these
 20 families and gave her a written document to that
 21 effect?
 22 A. I definitely wrote something to P. as
 23 far as being inappropriate with a client at
 24 another Christmas party -- actually, I tried to
 25 talk to her and she told me not to talk to her.

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1 Q. That wasn't my question. Did you say to
 2 her, did you describe her as a sick person that
 3 maligns families, is demonic, inhuman and shows
 4 no dignity when working with these families?
 5 A. I don't recall making that comment, but
 6 that is --
 7 Q. It's possible?
 8 A. It's possible.
 9 Q. Demonic, inhuman?
 10 A. I don't know about those terms.
 11 Q. Well, why do you think that someone would
 12 put that into a document if you didn't say it?
 13 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. Calls for
 14 speculation.
 15 A. I don't know. I don't know.
 16 Q. You don't know. But it's possible that
 17 you used those terms describing her. Right?
 18 MR. MCNAIR: Argumentative.
 19 Q. Yes or no.
 20 MR. MCNAIR: Anything is possible.
 21 Q. You're right. Is it possible that you
 22 used those terms?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Because this is the same woman that you
 25 said to your friend, Ms. Cosby, has severe mental

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1 health issues, right?
 2 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 3 Q. You didn't talk to anyone above you in
 4 terms of OCY about this incident until sometime
 5 after it happened, did you?
 6 A. I talked to -- yes, the following week.
 7 My supervisor was unavailable.
 8 Q. Do you remember talking, when you were
 9 asked about why it took you so long to do this,
 10 you said you weren't sure that it was abuse or
 11 just inappropriate, and she felt, and you felt
 12 that the child was safe because P [REDACTED] wasn't
 13 going to see the child until the 23rd?
 14 A. I thought that I could at least wait
 15 until the following day when the --
 16 Q. But you didn't wait until the following
 17 day, you waited almost two weeks.
 18 A. I went to a supervisor and reported it,
 19 actually.
 20 Q. Who was it?
 21 A. Christy Hulton. I ended up not waiting.
 22 Q. And what did Christy Hulton do?
 23 A. She asked me to speak with Pam Biroscak.
 24 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 7
 25 was marked for identification.)

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1 BY MR. JOYAL:
 2 Q. Exhibit No. 7, which I'll identify as
 3 being from abby@christian.net, July 12,
 4 8:19 a.m., Pam Biroscak. Did you write that
 5 e-mail?
 6 A. Let me look.
 7 Q. I'm just asking you, did you write the
 8 e-mail? I'm not going to ask you about that.
 9 Did you write it?
 10 A. (Witness reviews document.)
 11 Q. Did you write it?
 12 A. I'm looking at it.
 13 MR. MCNAIR: Give her a chance to
 14 read it. It's a two-page document. Give her a
 15 chance to read it, and she'll let you know when
 16 she's done.
 17 MR. JOYAL: All right.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 8
 20 was marked for identification.)
 21 BY MR. JOYAL:
 22 Q. Can I have that back. Let's go to
 23 Exhibit No. 8, which are three pages of -- it's
 24 one, two, three pages of e-mails that are dated
 25 from May 24 through May 25. Take a look at that,

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1 tell me if those are e-mails that you either sent
 2 or received.
 3 A. (Witness reviews document.)
 4 Q. Are those e-mails that you sent and
 5 received from Deanna Cosby?
 6 A. Yes. I vaguely -- I can't really recall
 7 this. I'm reading it. I don't remember this.
 8 Q. Let me ask you this: Are they all,
 9 there's one that starts on the last page,
 10 5/24/2004, 8:51 a.m. at your e-mail address at
 11 county. The last page. Third page, see where it
 12 says, ConleyAbby, Abby, 5/24?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. That is your e-mail address, right?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. You sent her a letter to the editor about
 17 a dead foster child?
 18 MR. MCNAIR: Asked and answered.
 19 Q. Did you send her a letter in an e-mail?
 20 MR. MCNAIR: She testified she
 21 doesn't recall.
 22 Q. Would anyone else have access to your
 23 e-mail address at county, with your password, in
 24 May?
 25 A. I don't know.

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1 Q. You don't know. These e-mails were
 2 before the ones in June, right? Where you were
 3 talking about V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]. These were in May.
 4 A. I'm trying to read this. This was, I
 5 see, a copy of the letter to the editor that was
 6 in the newspaper.
 7 Q. And this was about a little girl that had
 8 died while in OCY care, is that right?
 9 A. This letter concerning a young lady who
 10 lived with us for 15 months.
 11 MR. JOYAL: Please be quiet.
 12 MR. MCNAIR: You sit here and you
 13 misstate the facts that are well known to
 14 everybody and are simply public knowledge, and if
 15 you're talking about B [REDACTED] L [REDACTED], so would
 16 you please make an effort to be accurate, unless
 17 it is your tactic to deliberately give inaccurate
 18 information to the witness and make her correct
 19 every factual statement that you make, is that
 20 your tactic?
 21 BY MR. JOYAL:
 22 Q. Let me ask you a question, ma'am. Is
 23 this letter about B [REDACTED] L [REDACTED]?
 24 A. I think it is.
 25 Q. Did she die while she was in foster care?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. What happened to her?
 3 A. She -- according to the paper, she died
 4 from abuse, being abused by her adoptive parent.
 5 Q. Adoptive parent who had been placed by
 6 OCY?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. So the adoption had been facilitated. So
 9 I misspoke. She wasn't in foster care, but died
 10 while in the custody of someone OCY approved for
 11 placement as an adoptive patient?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. You sent this to Deanna Cosby?
 14 A. It was cut and copy.
 15 Q. And you said, OCY is in the paper again,
 16 they are really hammering OCY. You sent the
 17 letter.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Correct? And then there was
 20 conversations about Deanna wanting to send
 21 anonymous letters to the paper and you told her
 22 that they won't print them if they're anonymous,
 23 correct, that's on page 4?
 24 A. That is on the editorial page.
 25 Q. I understand. She said she was going to

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1 send something and you told her not to do it
 2 anonymously because they won't print it, right?
 3 Let's go over to page 2. Let's go on the top of
 4 page 3.
 5 A. Okay.
 6 Q. Right here, page 3. Top of the page?
 7 A. Okay.
 8 Q. Has that been marked? Okay. This is
 9 5/25/2004.
 10 A. Yes, sir.
 11 Q. "Another one of our kids died." This is
 12 from you -- from Deanna. On page 2, go to
 13 page 2.
 14 A. I only have page 3, 4, and 5.
 15 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 9
 16 was marked for identification.)
 17 BY MR. JOYAL:
 18 Q. I'm sorry. Here we go. This is Exhibit
 19 No. 9, okay?
 20 A. Okay.
 21 Q. These are continuations of the e-mails.
 22 MR. McNAIR: What exhibit?
 23 MR. JOYAL: Exhibit 9. You will,
 24 I'm sure when they're attached to the transcript.
 25 MR. McNAIR: I would like to have

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1 them now because I would like to know.
 2 MR. JOYAL: You're not going to get
 3 them now. We don't have time.
 4 MR. McNAIR: I believe I have the
 5 right to look at every exhibit that you show the
 6 witness before you question her on it. Am I
 7 wrong on the Federal rules again?
 8 MR. JOYAL: I put it to you and you
 9 just decided to tell me that you didn't have a
 10 copy. If you had just taken it to read it, then
 11 you would have gotten it, Mr. McNair.
 12 MR. McNAIR: So this is now No. 9.
 13 MR. JOYAL: It's marked as No. 9.
 14 MR. McNAIR: It used to be 8.
 15 MR. JOYAL: There were two specific
 16 exhibits. One is 8 and one is 9. Nine has parts
 17 of 8 and has its own.
 18 MR. McNAIR: Just for the record,
 19 when I came in here this morning, you threw a
 20 stack of documents at me that is about two inches
 21 thick which had not been labeled and I'm required
 22 to look through this stack of documents for what
 23 you say is, you told me that that contains copies
 24 of all these exhibits.
 25 MR. JOYAL: And I told you if they

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1 weren't there, that I apologize. But you have
 2 every right to look at it now.
 3 MR. McNAIR: Now you're telling me I
 4 can't get copies of that.
 5 MR. JOYAL: I'm telling you that --
 6 MR. McNAIR: I'm going to have to
 7 wait until I buy a transcript. I may not want to
 8 buy a transcript.
 9 MR. JOYAL: Maybe you won't, then
 10 you may have to figure out how you can get copies
 11 of the exhibits.
 12 MR. McNAIR: I think I know how to
 13 get copies of the exhibits.
 14 MR. JOYAL: I'm sure you do. Maybe
 15 just send a discovery request. You'll get
 16 everything you want.
 17 MR. McNAIR: For the record, the
 18 stack of documents that you provided me does not
 19 contain Exhibit No. 8.
 20 MR. JOYAL: Okay.
 21 BY MR. JOYAL:
 22 Q. Take a look at Exhibit No. 9, if you
 23 would. Let Mr. McNair look at it, too, since he
 24 is so anxious to see it.
 25 MR. McNAIR: I have a copy of No. 9.

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1 Q. No. 9 contains all of No. 8 as well.
 2 A. Okay.
 3 Q. So you got No. 9 here. Why don't you
 4 share with Mr. McNair, because that is my only
 5 copy. Go to page 2. And this is from Deanna to
 6 you, May 25, 1:47. "Who what when and where."
 7 That, I presume, is in response to the one on
 8 page 3, that says "another one of our kids died."
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And this was about a kid that drowned at
 11 Beacon Lake?
 12 A. Yes. It was in the newspaper.
 13 Q. It wasn't in the newspaper down in North
 14 Carolina, though, was it?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. And this is -- you know, you talked about
 17 he was apparently in some sort of placement,
 18 right, through OCY, is that true?
 19 A. Yes. I don't know all the particulars of
 20 it. I just know that there was something in the
 21 paper about it.
 22 Q. Who is M [REDACTED] H [REDACTED]?
 23 A. M [REDACTED] H [REDACTED] is a caseworker on the same
 24 unit that Deanna and I were on.
 25 Q. From OCY?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And you said, you told her that it was
 3 one of M [REDACTED] H [REDACTED]' kids, another one of your
 4 coworkers, right? And someone, apparently, that
 5 Deanna didn't like very well, because she replied
 6 back to you, he probably hasn't seen that kid in
 7 a year?

8 MR. MCNAIR: Argumentative. That
 9 doesn't imply any like or dislike. It's a
 10 statement.

MR. JOYAL: Statement of fact.

BY MR. JOYAL:

13 Q. What did you take from that statement of
 14 fact, had you and she talked about M [REDACTED] H [REDACTED] in
 15 the past?

16 A. She knew M [REDACTED] in a professional sense.
 17 He has a reputation of engaging in service
 18 neglect, not serving his clients.

19 Q. In other words, that's again your term,
 20 service neglect, his reputation.

21 A. We worked on cases together.

22 Q. Let me ask you a question: Of all these
 23 people that you say engaged in service neglect,
 24 any of them been sued by anyone?

25 A. I don't know.

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1 Q. You don't know. Have they ever been
 2 reprimanded, firings, told that they couldn't do
 3 their jobs anymore?
 4 A. I don't know.
 5 Q. What kind of turnover is there at OCY?
 6 A. Huge.
 7 Q. Huge. And why is that, ma'am?
 8 A. I don't know.
 9 Q. Have you ever talked to anybody that left
 10 and maybe they told you that they were burned out
 11 trying to do their job?
 12 A. I would certainly think that would be
 13 part of it.
 14 Q. Huge turnover. That was probably one of
 15 the reasons why it would be that there is a
 16 pretty large turnover in these group homes that
 17 you talked about, because people were burned out?
 18 A. I don't know.
 19 Q. Well, did you ever talk to any of your
 20 staff people that left?
 21 A. No. Not about why they left, no.
 22 Q. Anybody ever complained to you about how
 23 overworked they were and how burned out they were
 24 trying to take care of this population?
 25 A. We all worked really hard. In what

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1 context, OCY or Human Development?
 2 Q. At Human Development. Did anybody come
 3 up to you and say, I'm getting burned out, this
 4 is a real hard job and I may need to leave?
 5 A. I don't know. Maybe.
 6 Q. Maybe.
 7 A. I don't know.
 8 Q. Would it not be common knowledge among
 9 that type of industry that you worked for so many
 10 years that people left because they were burned
 11 out?
 12 A. I would imagine that there would be a
 13 fair amount of people that think that.
 14 Q. Right. Because it's a hard job.
 15 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 16 Q. And it's not paid very well, is it?
 17 A. I don't know.
 18 Q. So M [REDACTED] H [REDACTED], you believe that M [REDACTED]
 19 H [REDACTED] engaged in service neglect, and then you
 20 turned around and responded to her that M [REDACTED] did
 21 not shed a tear or acted like he cared when he
 22 found out. Right?
 23 A. That was Deanna's comment.
 24 Q. No, that was your comment, ma'am. Do you
 25 see the Deanna Cosby comment, from Deanna,

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1 Conley, Abby, 5/24, 1:59:30, "M█ did not shed a
2 tear or acted like he cared when he found out."
3 Were you with him when he found out?
4 A. I don't know.
5 Q. Well, then --
6 A. I vaguely -- I can't remember.
7 Q. Why would you write that?
8 A. My back.
9 MR. McNAIR: If you need to stand
10 up, or if you need to take a break.
11 THE WITNESS: It's okay.
12 BY MR. JOYAL:
13 Q. Why would you write something like
14 that --
15 A. I don't know. It's been --
16 Q. A year?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. This would have been something that made
19 a mark on you?
20 A. M█ is just M█. You know, you got to
21 understand, Deanna and I know these people. We
22 worked with them.
23 Q. I understand.
24 A. I wasn't getting into the psychology of
25 it, it was a very quick --

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1 Q. Why would you write something like that
2 about the man?
3 A. Because apparently he didn't shed a tear
4 or acted like he cared when he found out.
5 Q. How do you know that?
6 A. I would assume by the observations.
7 Q. That you saw him?
8 A. It would only be in that context.
9 Q. Do you believe that is an appropriate
10 thing to talk about a fellow worker, a fellow
11 human being, in that context, especially when she
12 said, he probably hadn't seen the kid in a year?
13 MR. McNAIR: Objection, irrelevant,
14 argumentative.
15 Q. You can answer it. Is it appropriate?
16 MR. McNAIR: Objection, irrelevant.
17 Q. Yes or no? You don't know?
18 A. I don't know.
19 Q. Is it the Christian thing to do, to talk
20 about somebody like that?
21 A. I think that I was relating an
observation.
22 Q. That wasn't my question, ma'am. Is it
23 the Christian thing to do?
24 A. Yes.

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1 Q. It is a Christian thing to do to talk
2 about people like that?
3 A. I don't think that that is the context
4 that I was sharing that.
5 Q. Okay.
6 A. I simply was sharing an observation that
7 he did not cry or acted like he cared. I don't
8 think that I went into a whole lot of philosophy.
9 Q. Is there some reason why you had to tell
10 Deanna Cosby about this?
11 A. It was in the paper.
12 Q. Here. It wasn't in the paper there. Is
13 there a reason why you needed to tell her about
14 it?
15 A. She is from Erie. She used to work at
16 the Office of Children and Youth. We had a
17 commonality of working at the Office of Children
18 and Youth, and our agency that we had
19 collectively worked for had been in the
newspaper. It's very simplistic. It's not...
20 Q. The reply above that, "I know you are not
surprised and Sue was probably to zooted to
react." What does that mean, what does zooted
mean?
21 A. I think she's making reference to

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1 overtakes medicine sometimes. She comes in to
2 work and she, her eyes are dilated, she repeats
3 herself, she gets -- she looks loaded.
4 Q. How do you know?
5 A. Because I worked with the woman for four
6 years.
7 Q. So would she tell you she took medicine?
8 Do you know what she takes?
9 A. I have no idea.
10 Q. Well, then --
11 A. You're asking me what Deanna meant?
12 MR. McNAIR: Let her answer, for
13 crying out loud.
14 A. She said zooted. I think it's in
15 reference to Sue being --
16 Q. I've never heard the term zooted.
17 A. Neither have I.
18 Q. Then how would you know what it meant if
19 you never heard the term before?
20 A. It's a guess.
21 Q. A guess?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. What do you base your guess on?
24 A. That Deanna had seen Sue do her thing.
25 Q. Do her thing. What do you mean by that,

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1 ma'am?
 2 A. She, I don't know how to -- she appeared
 3 to be inebriated or loaded; her eyes were
 4 dilated, she would have a dry mouth, just out of
 5 it, say things that didn't make any sense.
 6 Q. Did you ever see that?
 7 A. Excuse me?
 8 Q. Did you ever see that?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. So would you have used that term, zooted?
 11 A. No. I would have said -- I don't know.
 12 Q. Would you have accused her of being an
 13 alcoholic?
 14 MR. McNAIR: Again, this is your
 15 final warning. Don't interrupt her again or
 16 we're out of here. I'm not going to sit here and
 17 have you just continually interrupt the witness
 18 when she's trying to give answers.
 19 Q. Finish your answer.
 20 MR. McNAIR: The question was, did
 21 you ever observe Sue Deveney when she appeared to
 22 be inebriated?
 23 A. I had suspicion. I didn't know for sure.
 24 Q. That wasn't the question. Answer the
 25 question. Did you ever observe her?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And you had suspicions about what, that
 3 she was what, inebriated?
 4 A. I don't know. I don't know what you
 5 would call it.
 6 Q. What would you call it?
 7 A. She was under the influence of something.
 8 Q. She was?
 9 A. Yeah. You could tell.
 10 Q. You could tell?
 11 A. Yeah.
 12 Q. You could tell.
 13 A. Well, anybody could tell.
 14 Q. Anybody. So if we went through all the
 15 people in your unit, they would testify that they
 16 had seen the same thing? Would they?
 17 A. I don't know.
 18 Q. You don't know. Was anybody with you
 19 when you observed it?
 20 A. I'm saying I had seen her --
 21 Q. How many times?
 22 A. I don't know.
 23 Q. More than once?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. How many? Ten, 20, 30?

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1 MR. McNAIR: Objection.
 2 Q. How many?
 3 A. I don't know.
 4 Q. More than ten? More than ten?
 5 A. More than ten.
 6 Q. More than five?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. How many years?
 9 A. Four.
 10 Q. Who did you report it to?
 11 A. Nobody.
 12 Q. Why not?
 13 A. Because I didn't know what her problem
 14 was.
 15 Q. Okay. What did you mean on the reply,
 16 "she gave me looks to kill, then told me, no ONE
 17 is to find out about this kid drowning." Who is
 18 that, Sue? Is that who you're referring to?
 19 MR. McNAIR: Again, the witness has
 20 already testified that she doesn't have a
 21 specific recollection of this exchange.
 22 MR. JOYAL: I'm asking her.
 23 MR. McNAIR: The question has been
 24 asked and answered.
 25 A. I'm not really sure.

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1 Q. You're not sure who you're referring to?
 2 It couldn't have been Sue, who was referred to
 3 down below.
 4 A. It could be.
 5 Q. So she said, if it was Sue, and if you
 6 did write this, you don't deny this came out of
 7 your e-mail.
 8 A. I remember the newspaper.
 9 Q. But why would Sue say no one is to find
 10 out about the kid drowning if it was in the
 11 newspaper?
 12 A. I think what I'm saying here is that she
 13 doesn't want it to -- I don't know, be like
 14 common knowledge that it was, M██████████' case
 15 maybe, I don't know.
 16 Q. You don't know. Can't remember?
 17 A. I really don't remember.
 18 Q. Let's go to the next one. "I calling the
 19 times newspaper," probably, you know, typed
 20 wrong. Deanna to you. Okay? And your reply is
 21 "why?" Right? See that?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. 2:06, why she replies to you, apparently,
 24 and the times are off, "to tell them about the
 25 child dying." Right?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Now, I want to make sure we don't get
 3 back into the same discussion we had before.
 4 There's one up here that says 2:08:58. "You made
 5 me laugh out loud." That was probably -- is that
 6 in response to the tell them about the child
 7 dying or in response to the she was probably too
 8 zooted to know. Do you know which one it was?
 9 MR. MCNAIR: With all due respect,
 10 again (indicating).
 11 A. There's no pun intended.
 12 Q. I'm asking you if you know.
 13 A. I don't know.
 14 Q. Then go to the page before that. Again,
 15 these have -- this says 2:05, maybe that was to
 16 this one, "I'm dead serious no pun intended" from
 17 her to you, and then it says, "you made me laugh
 18 out loud." Is that -- that "you made me laugh
 19 out loud was," dead serious, "I double dog dare
 20 you. Ed Paletta is the reporter that has run
 21 all the stories." You were double dog daring her
 22 to call Ed Paletta about OCY, is that right?
 23 A. Yeah. I think I was kidding.
 24 Q. You were kidding.
 25 A. A double dog dare is a --

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1 Q. I know what it is.
 2 A. It's child like -- I didn't think that
 3 she was going to do it, even if she does call Ed
 4 Palattella, you know, it's her -- I don't know.
 5 Q. You think it's funny?
 6 A. No. It's just that you...
 7 Q. Go to the next one. In response to your
 8 kidding, I double dog dare you, she says, "okay
 9 its done." And then you reply, I presume six
 10 minutes later, "You can't call long distance at
 11 work!" And she replies, "Yes I can we can dial
 12 directly out on our desk phones or..." cell
 13 phones. And then you reply, "go ahead tell Ed
 14 everything!" And you give her a phone number.
 15 "870-1600 press zero for the operator." You were
 16 joking.
 17 A. I was definitely.
 18 Q. And you gave her the phone number.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And she said "to late while you're
 21 emailing me back and forth the call was put into
 22 his VM," which I presume is voice mail. You go
 23 back and say, "you are not telling the truth."
 24 What does she say to you at the last thing on
 25 that page?

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ABBY B. CONLEY 291

1 A. "Abby stop it you know I don't like ECOY
 2 and I would do ANYTHING to see it go down in
 3 flames!!!!"
 4 Q. This is your friend?
 5 A. Well --
 6 Q. Who you were going back and forth?
 7 A. You don't know her and you're making her
 8 sound -- I know what that says and it does look
 9 bad. But Deanna is a person who has a wise
 10 tongue and she's not going to really set the
 11 agency on flames. She loves what she does. You
 12 don't know her.
 13 Q. She doesn't work for them anymore. She
 14 works for someone else. And this is the same
 15 person who is quoted in letters as having talked
 16 to Vickie Wilson about leaving town to avoid a
 17 detention order.
 18 A. I don't believe it.
 19 Q. Isn't it?
 20 A. It's what?
 21 Q. It's the same woman, is it not, true or
 22 false, is it the same woman?
 23 MR. MCNAIR: Asked and answered.
 24 She is not going to answer it again. Are you
 25 done?

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1 MR. JOYAL: No, I'm not done. I'm
 2 not done. We're going through No. 10,
 3 Mr. McNair.
 4 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 10
 5 was marked for identification.)
 6 BY MR. JOYAL:
 7 Q. Take a look, tell me if you have seen
 8 that before.
 9 MR. JOYAL: As a matter of fact,
 10 let's do this, all right. Let's go from 10, 11,
 11 12, 13, 16, 17, 20.
 12 (Conley Deposition Exhibits 11
 13 through and including 20 were marked for
 14 identification.)
 15 BY MR. JOYAL:
 16 Q. Tell me if you've seen any of those
 17 before.
 18 A. (Witness reviews documents.) Yes.
 19 Q. Which one is that?
 20 MR. MCNAIR: Eleven.
 21 Q. What is 11? Is that a letter?
 22 MR. MCNAIR: Letter addressed to
 23 P [REDACTED] unsigned.
 24 BY MR. JOYAL:
 25 Q. That is your letter, is that right,

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1 unsigned?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Go to 12.
 4 A. Hold on, please.
 5 Q. I'm not going to ask questions about it.
 6 I'm just asking if you saw it.
 7 A. I want to make sure I authored all of
 8 this letter, is that okay?
 9 Q. Yes.
 10 A. I wish there was a date on this.
 11 (Witness reviews document.) Okay.
 12 Q. Have you seen that one before?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. That is your letter?
 15 A. Yes, sir.
 16 Q. Look at the next one.
 17 A. (Witness reviews document.)
 18 MR. McNAIR: That would be 12.
 19 Q. You don't know if you've ever seen that
 20 before?
 21 A. He asked me what the writing was.
 22 Q. Have you ever seen that before?
 23 A. Hold on.
 24 MR. McNAIR: In this form?
 25 A. It's really confusing.

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ABBY B. CONLEY 294

1 Q. If you haven't, or you can't identify it,
 2 let me know and we'll put it on the pile.
 3 A. I can't.
 4 Q. You can't identify No. 12, which is
 5 e-mails from Deanna Cosby to Abby Conley and
 6 responses back and forth from 7/20 through -- all
 7 on the date of 7/20. You can't identify that.
 8 What is the next one?
 9 A. Thirteen.
 10 Q. Have you ever seen this before?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. Let me have that. Fourteen? Have you
 13 ever seen that before?
 14 MR. McNAIR: Slow down here a
 15 second.
 16 A. This was 16.
 17 Q. What do you have there, 17 and 16?
 18 MR. McNAIR: Let me see 15, please.
 19 THE WITNESS: Fourteen, he meant.
 20 MR. JOYAL: This one? Which one?
 21 MR. LANE: Thirteen, I think.
 22 MR. JOYAL: This is 13.
 23 MR. McNAIR: And again, I wasn't
 24 given a copy of that. I would love to get a copy
 25 of this today.

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ABBY B. CONLEY 295

1 MR. JOYAL: You'll get one.
 2 MR. McNAIR: I'll get a copy now.
 3 BY MR. JOYAL:
 4 Q. We'll give you and have you identify
 5 Exhibit 20. Have you ever seen that before?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 MR. JOYAL: Hold on to that and show
 8 it to Mr. McNair.
 9 (Discussion off the record.)
 10 BY MR. JOYAL:
 11 Q. You already said you hadn't seen these
 12 correspondence, right?
 13 A. Right. Not before today.
 14 Q. Not before today. Right. So you don't
 15 know what they contain.
 16 A. No.
 17 Q. We can go forward. Identify No. 20 for
 18 me, if you would.
 19 A. That's 21.
 20 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 21
 21 was marked for identification.)
 22 BY MR. JOYAL:
 23 Q. Twenty-one, I'm sorry. What is No. 21?
 24 A. This was one of the ladies at OCY, I
 25 write for the paper.

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ABBY B. CONLEY 296

1 Q. What paper?
 2 A. Morning Star News.
 3 Q. And that's a local paper here?
 4 A. Local Christian paper, yes.
 5 Q. In Erie?
 6 A. Yes, sir.
 7 Q. So it's a local Christian paper in Erie?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And you wrote that where?
 10 A. At home.
 11 Q. At home. How did it end up, did you give
 12 it to someone?
 13 A. No, I think I -- this, I think that
 14 possibly what I did, because one of the ladies
 15 that works who knows I was a reporter, she
 16 attends St. Pat's Church and wanted me to do a
 17 church history on her church, and I believe that
 18 she sent that to me at work from her e-mail to
 19 mine, and then I just started to format.
 20 Q. It's an attachment. So this was not
 21 anything -- we got the one about St. Pat's
 22 Church?
 23 A. Yeah.
 24 Q. Then we have the one about the Family
 25 Worship Center?

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ABBY B. CONLEY 297

1 A. Yes. The church history.
 2 Q. Pastor Car, these were all for the
 3 newspaper?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. First Assembly of God, the Scriptural
 6 Qualifications of a Bishop were what, were they
 7 not --
 8 A. They're all attachments I sent like to my
 9 e-mail. If I had time, like, between cases,
 10 because we don't always get a full hour, and
 11 sometimes like I would only have 20 minutes, and
 12 instead of doing something like, I don't know,
 13 playing solitaire, I would proof one of my
 14 writings, or I didn't, you know, didn't type
 15 these.
 16 Q. Were these things, the Scriptural
 17 Qualifications of a Bishop, were these all things
 18 for the Bible Center?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. So these were homework and things like
 21 that?
 22 A. Yeah. All that I did at home. I didn't
 23 type those at work.
 24 Q. But these were on your hard drive on your
 25 computer.

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1 A. Right. I sent them Word attachment to
 2 myself just to proof, if I had free time.
 3 Q. That's fine.
 4 A. Just so you know.
 5 Q. Let me go through a couple of these
 6 exhibits. I know that Exhibit 18, which is the
 7 letter to R. B. 7/15, there's a quote from
 8 you?
 9 MR. McNAIR: Letter to R. B.?
 10 Q. R. B. from V. W. I just ask
 11 you if you recall it.
 12 MR. McNAIR: What is the date?
 13 MR. JOYAL: 7/15.
 14 BY MR. JOYAL:
 15 Q. Do you ever recall saying to V.
 16 W. that she had a nice sized army on a phone
 17 call that you made to her on the 14th of July?
 18 A. No. That doesn't sound like something I
 19 would say. I don't know if she is taking it
 20 out -- something I said out of context.
 21 Q. That's fine. So 6/22, which is
 22 Exhibit 17, V. to R.?
 23 A. What date is that?
 24 Q. 6/22. I'm going to -- I'll show it to
 25 you if Mr. McNair doesn't have a copy of it. As

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ABBY B. CONLEY 299

1 a matter of fact, let's do this, you hold on to
 2 it. Can you try to read it out loud?
 3 A. Something write my lawyer a letter to
 4 drop it off tomorrow. I like Abby, she is -- I
 5 like Abby she is nice. Something, said she was
 6 hoping.
 7 Q. I saw P. grab D. too. Right, is
 8 that what she says? You were hoping that she saw
 9 P. grab D. too?
 10 A. Yeah.
 11 Q. "So she wasn't the only witness. I told
 12 her I'm lucky I didn't see that shit or I would
 13 be incarcerated for assault. I'm really glad
 14 Abby filed a complaint. After this is all over
 15 with, I'm going to get something nice for Abby,
 16 Deanna and Lisa. I'll have to think of something
 17 appropriate."
 18 A. Yeah.
 19 Q. "I can't wait for my next hearing. I
 20 hope it all goes real well and Deanna, Abby and
 21 Lisa are there for testimony." Right?
 22 A. Yeah.
 23 Q. Did you recall telling her that you hoped
 24 she saw D. get grabbed by P.?
 25 A. She called me and asked me, she was

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1 notified, and obviously that I was off the case,
 2 she was notified by the Department of Public
 3 Welfare about an incident.
 4 Q. Did you make that statement?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. So she is lying again?
 7 A. I don't think that she is lying. I think
 8 that she is...
 9 Q. Misinterpreting what you said?
 10 A. I think she is coming up with a
 11 conclusion. There was just me and P. on the
 12 case. I was taken off, and she was notified
 13 about an investigation, from what I remember.
 14 Q. How would she come up to a conclusion
 15 that said, "Abby, she is nice. She said she was
 16 hoping I saw P. grab D. too so she wasn't
 17 the only witness."
 18 How does she come to a conclusion that
 19 says that that is a quote from you?
 20 A. I don't know.
 21 Q. Let's go to the Exhibit No. 16.
 22 A. She was in the visiting room when it
 23 happened.
 24 Q. But it was all outside, right?
 25 A. I was outside, but she was in the

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1 visiting room.

2 Q. This happened in the parking lot.

3 A. Right, but there's a window facing the
4 parking lot. So there was a possibility that she
5 could have seen it from where she was sitting.

6 MR. McNAIR: What number is that?

7 MR. JOYAL: Seventeen.

8 BY MR. JOYAL:

9 Q. So you think that she is mistaken and she
10 is sort of coming to a conclusion that maybe she
11 thought you said that to her, but that you really
12 didn't?13 A. I don't know what she meant. I don't
14 recall having a conversation specifically.15 Q. We have on the 16th of June, and I'm
16 going to read you some stuff, okay?

17 A. Okay.

18 MR. McNAIR: What number is that?

19 Q. No. 16. "I'm still pissed about P [REDACTED]
20 squeezing D [REDACTED]'s face. This is some shit"
21 something call Children's Services about but you
22 can't win if it is Children's Services. It's f'd
23 up. "Me and my crew may be staking her out this
24 summer. I'm going to tell Chris what she did and
25 if he doesn't do something about it I'll tell himWORDZ R US
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1 he's a bitch and a pussy." What do you make of
2 that, I'm having my crew stake her out?3 MR. McNAIR: Objection. This is so
4 irrelevant to the case.

5 MR. JOYAL: No. It may be --

6 MR. McNAIR: She's not answering any
7 questions about what is this.8 MR. JOYAL: You can't advise her to
9 not answer a question.10 MR. McNAIR: What do you make of
11 that?12 THE WITNESS: I think she has a
13 nasty mouth.

14 BY MR. JOYAL:

15 Q. Do you think it's a threat to P [REDACTED] I'm
16 going to have her staked out?

17 A. I don't know.

18 Q. You don't know?

19 MR. McNAIR: It speaks for itself.

20 Q. We'll ask her.

21 I'm going to tell Chris what she did --
22 hey, I came up with a good idea. It says, "Hey I
23 came up with a good idea. You know what I would
24 like to do? Steal P [REDACTED]'s case aide (Abby) from
25 her and have her be my babysitter. If I had allWORDZ R US
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1 three kids, I could pay her about 500 a week,
2 that's probably more than she makes and maybe
3 more than P [REDACTED] makes. I'd love for her to make
4 more than P [REDACTED]. She's real good with kids too,
5 my kids like her and she hates working for OCY."
6 I think that's what it says. "What do you think?
7 It's just a thought," and I can't read the rest
8 of it.9 Q. Did you know that she was talking to R [REDACTED]
10 B [REDACTED] about trying to have you be her babysitter
11 and pay you \$500 a week?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did you ever talk to her, did she ever
14 approach you about any of that stuff?15 A. No. She did tell me things like, you
16 know, kids smile when you're around or they're
17 happy or whatever.18 Q. But she never said anything to you about
19 hiring you, right?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And did you ever say anything to her
22 about hating to work for OCY?

23 A. No. I didn't hate working at OCY.

24 Q. She just sort of got that impression on
25 her own?WORDZ R US
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ABBY B. CONLEY

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1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Here is the final thing. Go to Exhibit
3 No. 10. And I want you to, again, identify those
4 two pages for me.

5 A. (Witness reviews document.) Exhibit 10?

6 Q. Yes. These are two e-mails, right? We
7 have one page.

8 A. Can we get a copy of it?

9 MR. McNAIR: Yes. We've already
10 covered this.11 MR. JOYAL: We haven't covered any
12 questions on it.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. Second page, are just somehow or another,
15 they're from you to Deanna, June 28, 8:30 a.m.,
16 and it has four questions, right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And on the reply that came back,
19 apparently on the first page, it probably was a
20 reply back e-mail and they replied back with what
21 was there before, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. Here is what you asked her:
24 "What is the name of that client of yours that
25 had mental health issues? The guy that got angryWORDZ R US
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ABBY B. CONLEY

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1 and caused a lock down because of P█. Do you
 2 know how I could get a hold of him?" Do you know
 3 what that was all about?

4 A. Because that was one of P█'s cases.

5 Q. Why did you want to get a hold of the guy?

6 A. I didn't want to get a hold of him. I
 7 think that what I wanted to do is talk to DPW
 8 again.

9 Q. Why?

10 A. Because I had concerns about P█.

11 Q. I see. So you were looking to Deanna to
 12 be able to go back, because they had already said
 13 that the abuse case was unfounded, right? DPW?

14 A. Yeah, that would have been.

15 Q. So you went back looking for something
 16 else to go to DPW on because you didn't like that
 17 they had unfounded the allegations that were made
 18 against her, is that right?

19 MR. MCNAIR: Objection.

20 Argumentative.

21 Q. Is that true?

22 A. I don't recall what my line of thinking
 23 was at that particular time. I didn't end up
 24 doing anything with this. I just had --

25 Q. Well, let's stop for a minute.

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ABBY B. CONLEY

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1 MR. MCNAIR: Again?

2 MR. JOYAL: I'm going to stop her,
 3 because she's unresponsive to my question.

4 BY MR. JOYAL:

5 Q. The question was, you asked how you could
 6 get a hold of him. This was after the fact that
 7 DPW had unfounded the charges, correct?

8 MR. MCNAIR: Asked and answered.

9 Next question.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Next question. "Would you be willing to
 12 speak to Western Region, about PW and SD?" I
 13 presume PW is Patti Wozniak and SD is Sue
 14 Deveney?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Why did you want her to speak to Western
 17 Region DPW.

18 A. I believe because of the service neglect.
 19 The system at OCY is broken.

20 Q. You've said that a few times. This had
 21 nothing to do with the fact that you had some
 22 animosity to these two women, is that right?

23 A. No. I don't have animosity in the sense
 24 that --

25 Q. You don't?

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1 A. No. I wanted to right a wrong.

2 Q. Which wrong was that, service neglect?

3 A. I don't think that it would be up to me.

4 I think that I just wanted to get the information
 5 to DPW that would be the possible -- I don't
 6 really remember what my line of thinking was
 7 during this, but I know that I never did anything
 8 with it.

9 Q. Well, because she responded to you, the
 10 first name, she gave you the first name and
 11 address, told you where to look in the record.
 12 She told you to look in the record for it. That
 13 family name. She said go look -- did you look in
 14 the record?

15 A. No.

16 Q. The second response was, yeah, she would
 17 be willing to talk to them about these two women,
 18 right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you knew she didn't like either one
 21 of them. Correct?

22 A. I wouldn't use that she didn't like them.

23 Q. She wasn't very fond of them?

24 A. She didn't agree with not doing their
 25 job.

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1 Q. Now, you remember, this is a woman who
 2 took over her case file and you knew that she had
 3 found some fault with some of Deanna's work, is
 4 that right?

5 A. I don't know.

6 Q. And if that --

7 A. I wouldn't sit there and listen to it. I
 8 usually got up and left.

9 Q. And that's because you and Deanna were
 10 friends and had the same feelings about
 11 empowerment, correct?

12 A. No, because it was gossip and I didn't
 13 think that it was appropriate to gossip about --
 14 to sit and listen to people, like, I usually was
 15 very busy.

16 Q. Well --

17 A. The only time I was on my computer is
 18 when I had down time or, you know, it's not -- I
 19 just didn't have a lot of time.

20 Q. What is the difference, if you can tell
 21 me, ma'am, between you not listening to people
 22 talking about case files handled by your friend
 23 Deanna Cosby and you spending hours gossiping
 24 back and forth with her in North Carolina?

25 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. That is

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1 argumentative and there's no foundation.

2 MR. JOYAL: You can answer.

3 BY MR. JOYAL:

4 Q. We know, we've already identified a bunch
5 of e-mails you sent that talk about P [REDACTED]
6 W [REDACTED] that talk about M [REDACTED] H [REDACTED], that talk
7 about the agency. Do you consider that gossip?

8 A. No.

9 Q. But you considered when P [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] and
10 Sue Deveney were talking about case files, you
11 thought that was gossip, because they were
12 talking about your friend.

13 A. The few incidents that it occurred, I
14 didn't really want to listen to it.

15 Q. But that is because she was your friend,
16 is that right?

17 A. Deanna was definitely my friend.

18 Q. And that is the same reason why you think
19 that when we showed you the letters that V [REDACTED]
20 W [REDACTED] wrote saying Deanna told her all these
21 things, you didn't believe she said that, is that
22 right? .

23 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

24 Argumentative.

25 Q. Is that right?

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1 A. If you -- I'm sorry?

2 Q. She is your friend, so when somebody says
3 something that might implicate her in wrongdoing,
4 you don't believe it?

5 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

6 Argumentative. Let me give my objection first.

7 Q. Answer the question. Let me rephrase the
8 question.

9 When somebody criticizes Deanna's work,
10 you don't want to listen to it, is that correct?

11 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

12 Argumentative.

13 Q. Yes or no.

14 A. I can't answer that. It's not that I
15 couldn't listen to objective criticism. If she
16 really did -- in my capacity as a case aide, I
17 worked with caseworkers. Nobody knew the
18 professional habits of these caseworkers better
19 than a case aide. That is just the nature of
20 what I did. So, you know, if I worked on a case
21 and the caseworker didn't show up for X amount of
22 months or wasn't providing service, I knew. I
23 also knew in retrospect that Deanna was a
24 hands-on type of individual that got involved in
her cases, that believed in following the Court

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1 order or whatever the specifics were on the case.
2 She was professional, even though she has a sharp
3 tongue in some of these e-mails. She was a good
4 person. I watched her professional habits for
5 years.

6 Q. Let me ask you this question in this way:
7 If you were her case aide in cases that things
8 weren't done, would that implicate your
9 performance as well as her case aide?

10 MR. McNAIR: Objection. Lack of
11 foundation. Calls for speculation. There is no
12 evidence that Deanna ever failed to perform all
13 of her assigned duties. Therefore, there is no
14 predicate for the question.

15 BY MR. JOYAL:

16 Q. Do you know that Deanna Cosby wrote many
17 e-mails about being accused of inappropriate
18 behavior during her cases, back to her
19 supervisors in her own defense, did you ever talk
20 to Deanna about those?

21 A. Hum-mm.

22 Q. Did you ever talk to Deanna about the
23 issues that involved the vouchers that were
24 missing in her files that had never been turned
25 in and various things that were supposed to have

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1 been purchased that they couldn't find any
2 records for behavior?

3 A. I didn't hear about that, no.

4 Q. Did you know about it?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Would it surprise you if there were such
7 issues about her performance?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. It would, because Deanna is a good
10 person. And she is your friend?

11 A. No. I can only weigh her in the sense of
12 my professional relationship with clients. I saw
13 her interact, she showed up to work, just basic
14 very simplistic terms. I wasn't --

15 Q. You didn't know anything else about her
16 performance evaluations, did you?

17 A. I knew that her and Sue got into it.
18 That's all I knew.

19 Q. Did she ever ask to transfer?

20 A. No.

21 Q. She didn't?

22 A. She left.

23 Q. She left. How long did she work for the
24 agency before she left, do you know?

25 A. A couple of years.

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1 Q. Did you work with her for those couple of
 2 years?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Did you socialize with her outside of
 5 work?
 6 A. Sometimes. Not often.
 7 Q. Did you go to the same church with her?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Why did you want to know, you also in
 10 this Exhibit No. 10 say, "What was the name of
 11 the family you heard PW maligning, remember last
 12 year you said you over heard her giving it to a
 13 parent?" And she said she didn't remember.
 14 A. Yeah.
 15 Q. What was the purpose of asking that
 16 question?
 17 A. Because I wanted to report everything to
 18 the Department of Public Welfare. But like I
 19 said, I didn't do that.
 20 Q. Well --
 21 A. Or Western, you know.
 22 Q. Is it fair to say the first report you
 23 made, which was the inappropriate physical
 24 behavior toward a child, you believed was not
 25 enough, so you were going to go back to the

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1 Department of Public Welfare with more?
 2 MR. McNAIR: Objection.
 3 Argumentative.
 4 Q. Is that true?
 5 A. I didn't go anywhere with this.
 6 Q. Because she couldn't give you any
 7 details, is that right, she said she didn't
 8 remember?
 9 MR. McNAIR: Objection.
 10 Argumentative. If you want to argue with her,
 11 take it outside or something.
 12 MR. JOYAL: Okay. I'll ask the
 13 question.
 14 MR. McNAIR: Did she give you any
 15 information in response to that question?
 16 THE WITNESS: No. Except for the
 17 last name.
 18 BY MR. JOYAL:
 19 Q. So for question 3, you couldn't get any
 20 information from her, right, so you couldn't do
 21 anything with it, is that a fair statement?
 22 A. Is that a fair statement?
 23 MR. McNAIR: Again, argumentative.
 24 Q. Is it a fair statement?
 25 MR. McNAIR: It's argumentative.

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. No. And then you asked about her
 3 ex-husband's name. What did you need to know
 4 that for?
 5 A. Because of what Sue Deveney had said, I
 6 was wondering, like...
 7 Q. Which is what, what did Sue Deveney say?
 8 A. About her child being, like I wanted to
 9 know if, what her history was.
 10 Q. Why?
 11 A. Because I suspected that something was
 12 really wrong with P. And I wanted to tell
 13 someone about it. It was a gut feeling that I
 14 had.
 15 Q. And you were going to do that to do what,
 16 help her?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Or hurt her?
 19 A. I often said that. If knowing P's
 20 issues didn't help her, it just made it spiral.
 21 Q. Did you know whether anybody thought that
 22 you had issues that hindered your job
 23 performance?
 24 A. I openly talked about my issues. People
 25 knew that I had suffered from depression. In

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1 fact, you know, I openly admitted it.
 2 Q. But did you ever write something that had
 3 to do, and I didn't ask you this, did you ever
 4 talk to people in your agency about your
 5 childhood?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And were you a foster child?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. What, tell me about how you became a
 10 foster child?
 11 MR. McNAIR: Objection. This is
 12 just abusive. Do you mind?
 13 MR. JOYAL: No, it isn't.
 14 MR. McNAIR: It has absolutely
 15 nothing to do with this case.
 16 MR. JOYAL: Everything to do with
 17 this case.
 18 MR. McNAIR: How does it relate to
 19 the stated reason for her termination?
 20 MR. JOYAL: No, it has to do with my
 21 defense of your lawsuit.
 22 MR. McNAIR: In what way?
 23 MR. JOYAL: Because your client has
 24 admitted at this stage of the game that she gave
 25 up information that she shouldn't have, her job

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1 performance.

2 MR. McNAIR: That is not true.

3 MR. JOYAL: I believe it is, by
4 talking about these e-mails.5 MR. McNAIR: I know you believe it
6 is. What does that have to do with her childhood
7 and foster care?8 MR. JOYAL: It's all part of her
9 record.

10 MR. McNAIR: Where in the record?

11 MR. JOYAL: Have you read any of the
12 documents that Mr. Taft provided you in response
13 to your request for the --14 MR. McNAIR: Mr. Taft took most of
15 those documents back when the hearing was
16 cancelled, and, no, I didn't see them.17 MR. JOYAL: Why not, were you not
18 involved in the case?19 MR. McNAIR: No, I was not involved
20 in the case.21 MR. JOYAL: I'm sure Mr. Angelone --
22 let me withdraw the question.23 MR. McNAIR: You can wait until he's
24 here. This is abusive.

25 MR. JOYAL: I'll ask this question.

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1 BY MR. JOYAL:

2 Q. You were informed at various times during
3 your evaluations that your supervisors felt that
4 you got too emotionally involved in your cases,
5 is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Is it fair to say, just based upon what
8 we've talked about today, that before you went to
9 testify on July 24 of 2004 in the C [REDACTED] case --

10 A. July 28, right.

11 Q. I'm sorry, July 28, in the C [REDACTED] case,
12 that you were concerned that you might have a
13 problem at your job due to these people
14 investigating the breaches of confidentiality
15 that they filed?16 A. I knew that I had problems for reporting
17 P [REDACTED]. They were not happy with me and I had
18 asked to be taken off the unit.19 Q. Well, prior to July 28 of 2004, we have
20 entered into evidence here as exhibits the
21 documents that we have which is your, all the
22 letters from, your e-mails to Ms. Cosby where you
23 were talking about V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]'s detention,
24 the letters that V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] wrote to
25 Mr. B [REDACTED] about her conversations with you asWORDZ R US
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1 well as her conversations with Deanna about the
2 detentions. Prior to that date as well, you have
3 written a June 28 memo, which we've talked about
4 as No. 10, asking for further information from
5 Deanna Cosby to be used to talk to DPW, right?
6 Correct?7 MR. McNAIR: No. That's not
8 correct. That's not what she testified.

9 MR. JOYAL: I'm going to --

10 MR. McNAIR: Quit misrepresenting
11 the record. You're wasting your time and my
12 time.13 MR. JOYAL: Mr. McNair, this is the
14 record.15 MR. McNAIR: The record is what she
16 answered, the way she answered your questions.
17 And I don't appreciate your telling her eight
18 hours into this that she gave one answer when
19 that is not the answer that she gave. You just
20 did --

21 BY MR. JOYAL:

22 Q. Let me rephrase it. I disagree with
23 Mr. McNair.24 You would agree with me, ma'am, that you
25 have identified some of these documents that are

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1 being placed as exhibits, is that right?

2 MR. McNAIR: Objection. Vague.
3 Overbroad.4 MR. JOYAL: Do you want me to go
5 through them one by one?6 MR. McNAIR: No. It's already done.
7 I don't know what your point is. Let's go home.

8 BY MR. JOYAL:

9 Q. All of these documents, everything that
10 is contained in these exhibits, all occurred
11 before July 28, 2004, is that correct?

12 A. All of them?

13 Q. Well, most of them. The DPW --
14 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

15 Argumentative.

16 Q. The DPW interview occurred before
17 July 28?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did the e-mail and the conversation with
20 Sue Deveney about confidentiality on the unit
21 occur before July 28?

22 A. I believe so.

23 Q. Did your conversations and e-mails with
24 Deanna Cosby occur before July 28?

25 A. Some of them, yes.

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1 Q. Some of them. Did your conversations,
 2 did the letters that we identified that we showed
 3 here about Vickie Wilson to Robbie Beers occur
 4 before July 28?

5 A. I don't know. They weren't dated.
 6 Q. Well, they were dated.

7 MR. McNAIR: The documents speak for
 8 themselves. Their dating is a matter of record.
 9 If you're trying to argue her into making some
 10 admission, I object because that's improper under
 11 the rules. And it is further a waste of your
 12 time and my time.

13 MR. JOYAL: It's improper under the
 14 rules.

15 MR. McNAIR: To ask argumentative
 16 questions.

17 MR. JOYAL: I won't be
 18 argumentative.

19 MR. McNAIR: You're being
 20 argumentative.

21 BY MR. JOYAL:

22 Q. Before July 28 --

23 MR. McNAIR: She will agree. I will
 24 stipulate that the only documents that you've
 25 provided her are dated prior to July 28. Okay?

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So go on.

BY MR. JOYAL:

3 Q. When you went into court on July 28, were
 4 you aware of the fact that Ed Palattella was
 5 going to be there?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You weren't.

8 A. No.

9 Q. So at that point in time, you didn't know
 10 that Ed Palattella was going to be there, but you
 11 had had a conversation with someone from First
 12 Step --

13 A. That was B. W.'s case.

14 Q. I understand. But you had a conversation
 15 about that before that. Now, you said -- did you
 16 not also --

17 MR. McNAIR: Relative to the July 28
 18 hearing.

19 MR. JOYAL: I thought she said she
 20 had another conversation before that about
 21 reporters coming to these places, to hearings.

22 A. To B. W.'s hearings, yes.

23 Q. When you got to the C. hearing, did
 24 you know Ed Palattella by sight?

25 A. I know him from politics.

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1 Q. And you knew that he also was a reporter
 2 that wrote a lot of stuff about OCY and things
 3 like that prior to that hearing, is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And had anybody told you that if you
 6 talked at the hearing about being afraid of
 7 losing your job and making reports, that you
 8 might be, you know, that they couldn't fire you?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did it ever occur to you that when
 11 Mr. Palattella wrote -- when you testified about
 12 how you were afraid of losing your job, that that
 13 was going to be reported in the newspaper?

14 MR. McNAIR: Was it?

15 MR. JOYAL: Yes, it was.

16 THE WITNESS: No, it wasn't.

17 BY MR. JOYAL:

18 Q. It was not reported in the newspaper at
 19 some point in time about your conversation?

20 A. Yeah, after the state civil service, the
 21 transcripts, yes. I got --

22 MR. McNAIR: After she was
 23 terminated.

24 A. After I was fired.

25 Q. It was reported, right.

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1 MR. McNAIR: After she was
 2 terminated.

3 A. I misunderstood you. I thought you meant
 4 that it was before.

5 MR. McNAIR: We'll stipulate it was
 6 reported after she was terminated.

7 BY MR. JOYAL:

8 Q. You knew prior to July 28 of 2004 that
 9 you were being investigated by your superiors for
 10 violating confidentiality and improper use of
 11 computer system, weren't you.

12 A. No.

13 Q. You knew there had been conversations
 14 about people who, from Ms. Deveney, that there
 15 had been information about P. W. that had
 16 been leaked out to the public, correct?

17 A. She didn't say that. I assumed that was
 18 what she was talking about when I had the meeting
 19 with her.

20 Q. And you assumed she was talking about
 21 you.

22 A. She said that someone leaked this
 23 information, she calls me into the office, I
 24 connected the dots. I did not take it that she
 25 was doing an investigation. I was not sat down

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1 and reprimanded or some kind of -- I knew that I
2 had made them really angry.

3 Q. Well, when you say you connected the
4 dots, did you think she was looking at you and
5 accusing you of doing it?

6 A. I thought the possibility was there, yes.

7 Q. Was there --

8 A. It was not accurate. Her allegation that
9 I said something to R [REDACTED] about P [REDACTED] was not
10 accurate.

11 Q. That you said something to R [REDACTED]?

12 A. I didn't ever meet R [REDACTED]. I couldn't have
13 talked to R [REDACTED]. I didn't -- I wouldn't do that.

14 Q. Somebody talked to R [REDACTED]. Do you agree?

15 A. Somebody, I don't know.

16 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. Foundation.

17 Q. Well, R [REDACTED] was in jail?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. R [REDACTED] wasn't out on the street. Somebody
20 had to talk to R [REDACTED].

21 A. I promise I didn't go and talk to him.

22 Q. I'm not suggesting that you did, ma'am.

23 MR. MCNAIR: Well, then, what is
24 your point?

25 MR. JOYAL: I have no point. She

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1 brought it up.

2 MR. MCNAIR: Then stop asking
3 questions. We have 15 minutes left.

4 BY MR. JOYAL:

5 Q. I want to ask you, when you said, why was
6 it that you testified in court on the 28th you
7 were afraid of losing your job under direct cross
8 examination from Mr. Valella, yet when Mr. Cauley
9 cross-examined you and said has anyone ever told
10 you that you were in danger of losing your job,
11 you said no. Why did you say that?

12 A. Because I knew that it would make them
13 angry if I told the truth.

14 Q. And the truth was that someone had
15 threatened you with the loss of your job before
16 July 28th?

17 A. I don't think that that is what I said.
18 What I said, I answered -- someone asked me the
19 question, are you fearful, it might have been
20 Judge Kelly. I answered a question. I didn't
21 just randomly start...

22 Q. Let's go back to page 84 or 85, and we'll
23 finish this up. Mr. Valella asked you on
24 page 85, "Are you concerned about anything
sitting here testifying today as you are today?"

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1 And your answer was, "I'm concerned, oh,
2 yeah, a little bit, and I'm concerned about
3 getting into trouble."

4 "What kind of trouble?" from Judge Kelly.
5 "I'm going to lose my job."
6 Judge Kelly says, "Why are you afraid of
7 that?"

8 "Because some of the things that they've
9 done is not appropriate, I don't want to lie."
10 You said on page 85 that you were afraid of
11 losing your job?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR. MCNAIR: The transcript speaks
14 for itself.

15 MR. JOYAL: I'm going to make sure
16 she said this.

17 BY MR. JOYAL:

18 Q. Page 94, this was Mr. Cauley questioning
19 you, did you say these things? "You told the
20 judge you were afraid you might lose your job?"

21 "Yes, sir."

22 "Who, has anybody made a threat or
23 indication to you that you might lose your job?"

24 Answer, "I have been having some kind --
25 I am having some problems at work as far as I've

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1 been" -- that was Mr. Luck. "Objection, Your
2 Honor." That was Mr. Cauley's objection.

3 Question from Mr. Luck, "Has anyone
4 threatened you with a job loss?"

5 "No." Then you went on to talk about
6 your problems, repetitive meetings, concerns
7 about information about that case, we go to 95,
8 now --

9 MR. JOYAL: I have nothing else.

10 MR. LANE: By my calculation, we
11 actually have 38 minutes left, not 15.

12 MR. MCNAIR: How do you calculate
13 that?

14 MR. LANE: We went from 10:30 to
15 2:05 with a five-minute break in between, which
16 is three and a half hours.

17 MR. MCNAIR: You don't deduct the
18 five-minute break.

19 MR. LANE: Three and a half hours.
20 We went from 3:02 to 4:02, one hour, 23 minutes;
21 four hours, 53 minutes. We then went from 4:30
22 until current, which I'll give you a minute,
23 6:00 o'clock. That's an hour and a half out of
24 two hours and seven minutes we have left. We
25 have 37 minutes left. I will try to finish in

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1 less than that.
 2 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 23
 3 was marked for identification.)
 4 EXAMINATION
 5 BY MR. LANE:
 6 Q. I believe you testified, Ms. Conley, that
 7 Deanna Cosby is a caring and compassionate
 8 person, is that correct?
 9 A. (Witness nodding head.) Yes.
 10 Q. And she is a professional?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. You testified that she is a good person,
 13 correct?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. I'm going to show you what I'm marking as
 16 Exhibit No. 23. Here is a copy for your attorney
 17 as well.
 18 A. Okay.
 19 Q. For the record, this appears to be an
 20 e-mail that is dated Friday, June 11, 2004, 10:12
 21 a.m. at the top, printed off of Matt Granger's
 22 computer, it appears, and has several e-mails
 23 nested within it. Is that correct?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. At the bottom, there's a reference to, it

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1 appears an e-mail from Deanna Cosby to you, it
 2 says on June 11, 2004, at 9:25 a.m., "Hey I
 3 haven't spoken to you in a while. Just wanted to
 4 say hi." Is that accurate?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Up above that, it appears that there is
 7 an e-mail dated June 11, 2004, at 9:58:41 a.m.
 8 from you to Deanna Cosby saying, "I have had some
 9 problems. Sue called me into her office and said
 10 it came to her attention that someone from her
 11 unit had sent out client information over the
 12 email system to a secondary email outside of this
 13 office."
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Do you remember sending that to Deanna
 16 Cosby?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Now, up above that, it appears that
 19 there's a message sent from Deanna Cosby to you
 20 dated June 11, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.?
 21 A. Okay.
 22 Q. And that e-mail says, "Well we'll just
 23 keep the subject matter to hey how ya doin
 24 because I know the situation there is not always
 25 positive. I just read you're last email and I

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1 will not do ANYTHING to help anyone on Sue's unit
 2 except for you so now the phone conference is
 3 definitely out. She is a nosy, miserable, busy
 4 body, who could stand a hard slap in the face.
 5 Well both of them could. But I'm okay with the
 6 fact that life smacks them in the face daily.
 7 Tra La." Do you see that?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Do you remember getting that from Deanna
 10 Cosby?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Is that what you consider caring and
 13 compassionate?
 14 A. I think that is --
 15 MR. McNAIR: Objection.
 16 Argumentative.
 17 A. That is Deanna being a smart aleck.
 18 Q. My question is, is that what you consider
 19 being caring and compassionate?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. Is that what you consider professional?
 22 A. No.
 23 Q. Is that what you consider being a good
 24 person?
 25 A. I don't know how to answer that. It's

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1 kind of like a trick question. Deanna really
 2 doesn't walk around smacking people.
 3 Q. So you can't answer that question?
 4 A. No. You're kind of -- it's kind of
 5 leading. I don't know. Deanna doesn't walk
 6 around really smacking people.
 7 Q. Well, she said that both of them could
 8 use a smack in the face.
 9 A. But she didn't mean it literally. It's
 10 just like, I don't know, I feel like blowing up
 11 doesn't mean that I'm necessarily going to really
 12 blow up.
 13 Q. Well, what did you think she meant by
 14 saying that life smacks them in the face daily?
 15 A. Because they both have issues.
 16 Q. Oh, so, was she basically poking fun at
 17 their issues?
 18 A. I think she was being sarcastic, and it's
 19 hard for me to really define what Deanna meant.
 20 An e-mail is, doesn't express emotion. I know
 21 Deanna, so it's easy for me to look at this and
 22 know that Deanna is being a smart aleck. I can
 23 understand why you can have a different
 24 interpretation of this, just looking at it at
 25 face value. The written word can be taken out of

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1 context, and I understand where you're going with
 2 this, but I know how Deanna is. She has three
 3 children. She is a kind person, and I don't
 4 think that she would really smack someone. I'm
 5 sorry. It's just the truth.

6 Q. Do you know to whom she was referring
 7 when she said both of them could?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you e-mail her back after you
 10 received this to tell her that this wasn't a very
 11 professional thing to send you?

12 A. I don't remember.

13 Q. Did you e-mail her back and tell her that
 14 it wasn't a very Christian thing to send to you?

15 A. I don't remember.

16 Q. Did you e-mail her back and tell her it
 17 was inappropriate in any way?

18 A. I don't know.

19 Q. Looking up above that e-mail, it looks
 20 like you e-mailed her, according to this, at
 21 least, on June 11, 2004, at 10:07:48 a.m. Do you
 22 see that?

23 A. Where is it? Okay, yeah.

24 Q. And your e-mail says, "CALL ME!!!!" Do
 25 you see that?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And then she e-mailed you back it appears
 3 to say she tried, and the recording said that the
 4 number you reached is not in service.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And then you told her, she should call
 7 the switchboard, press zero and ask Judy to send
 8 back her call. Do you remember the phone
 9 conversation you had with her after this?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you remember if you told her it wasn't
 12 very professional or appropriate or Christian to
 13 make these comments that somebody could use a
 14 hard slap in the face and to poke fun at their
 15 personal situation?

16 A. I don't recall what we talked about.

17 Q. I believe you've testified in this
 18 deposition that Sue Deveney appeared as though
 19 she was inebriated on certain occasions.

20 A. There was something not right. I don't
 21 know what it was.

22 Q. Didn't you say that it appeared she was
 23 inebriated?

24 A. Well, I was trying to editorialize what
 25 his question was about Deanna saying the word

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1 zoot. I was speculating and I shouldn't have. I
 2 don't know what her problem was.

3 Q. But she had a problem that you observed?

4 A. I've noticed it. You can't help it.

5 Q. And did you notice that problem
 6 throughout the course of your work at OCY from
 7 2000 on?

8 A. Off and on. I didn't know, you know.

9 Q. Off and on from the time you began there
 10 until the time you left?

11 A. Mostly on her unit, because when I
 12 initially started there, I was kind of a global
 13 case aide. I took different cases from different
 14 units and she only had worked in the capacity of
 15 a supervisor for a couple of years, I believe, so
 16 it would have only been within the context of --
 17 or the confines, I'm sorry, of that time.

18 Q. And when did you work with her unit?

19 A. From, I don't know, probably about a
 20 year.

21 Q. Okay. And before that, did you have
 22 experience with her and exposure to her, is that
 23 correct?

24 A. Off and on.

25 Q. And these observations you made of her

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1 having something wrong with her, that was from
 2 the time that you started there until the time
 3 you left, off and on?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Next I'm going to show you what I will
 6 mark as Exhibit No. 24.

7 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 24
 8 was marked for identification.)
 9 BY MR. LANE:

10 Q. By the way, before I do that, I think you
 11 testified that you never brought to the attention
 12 of anyone these issues with Sue Deveney, about
 13 having something wrong with her, to anybody?

14 A. I didn't know what her problem was, if it
 15 was a medical condition or whatever. I don't
 16 know.

17 Q. Exhibit No. 24 is an e-mail that appears
 18 to be dated May 18, 2003 to Abby Conley from
 19 Debbie Liebel. Do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And there's an e-mail nested beneath
 22 there dated May 16, 2003 from Abby Conley, you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. To Paul Concilla and Debi Liebel, carbon
 25 copy to Sue Deveney. Do you see that?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. I'll give you a few moments to look at
 3 that.
 4 A. I remember it.
 5 Q. Okay. And what do you remember about
 6 this?
 7 A. I remember how impressed I was in this
 8 particular case that she went in and she did a
 9 remarkable job.
 10 Q. In fact, in the last two lines of the
 11 first page of this exhibit, it says, "If the
 12 situation ever arrives, where you need an example
 13 of a supervisor with exceptional value to our
 14 agency, I would like to suggest Sue Deveney. Her
 15 character is exemplified by her actions."
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And that was written after you had been
 18 working at OCY for three years, is that right?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And you know of no written transmittals
 21 or correspondence that were authored by you
 22 criticizing her in any way, is that correct?
 23 A. I'm not aware of -- in reference to what,
 24 her drug use?
 25 Q. In reference to anything.

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1 A. Or whatever it was? To concerns?
 2 Q. Your concerns about Sue Deveney. Did you
 3 author any letter, e-mail, or any other document
 4 or transmittal?
 5 A. I can't recall. I could have, because I
 6 definitely, you know, had some concerns towards
 7 the end. I asked to be taken off of her unit.
 8 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 25
 9 was marked for identification.)
 10 BY MR. JOYAL:
 11 Q. I next want to show you Exhibit 25. This
 12 is an e-mail that appears to be printed off Matt
 13 Granger's computer e-system and at the top is an
 14 e-mail from Abby Conley to Gail Smith dated
 15 January 30, 2004 at 12:29 p.m. regarding Satan's
 16 Meeting, and there's an LOL underneath that.
 17 Nested beneath that is an e-mail from Gail Smith
 18 to Abby Conley dated January 30, 2004 at
 19 12:20 p.m. regarding something that got sent to
 20 your home and then beneath that is a message from
 21 Abby Conley dated January 30, 2004 at 12:15 p.m.
 22 to several people, including Deanna Cosby
 23 regarding Satan's Meeting. Do you see that?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Which e-mail was sent first?

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1 A. I don't know. It's kind of confusing.
 2 It says Gail Smith sent it to me January 30, 2004
 3 at 12:20, and then it has me sending it out at
 4 12:15, so I don't know how it could have came
 5 in -- oh...
 6 Q. Do you believe that you sent it to Gail
 7 Smith at 12:15 and she replied?
 8 A. I think that's --
 9 Q. Excuse me. She replied at 12:29 LOL,
 10 meaning lots of laughs?
 11 A. It looks like --
 12 Q. I'm sorry, she replied to you at 12:20,
 13 and you replied at 12:29 to that. Is that
 14 accurate, or don't you know?
 15 A. It's confusing to me, because "I just
 16 sent this to your home... just a minute ago!!!!"
 17 Gail is saying that she sent that to my home.
 18 Q. Do you know if she was saying that
 19 because you had sent it to her and she was
 20 sending it, it was ironic?
 21 A. People send so much junk mail there it's
 22 not funny.
 23 Q. Do you believe that you sent this Satan's
 24 Meeting poem, whatever it is, to a number of
 25 people, including Deanna Cosby?

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1 A. Yes, it looks like it.
 2 Q. And were you aware of the restriction on
 3 sending out political messages and religious
 4 messages on the OCY computer system?
 5 A. I am aware of it now. At the time, there
 6 might be a policy, but it's not something that
 7 was practiced. I mean, I would get stuff like --
 8 Gail is the head of computers. Even in some of
 9 these, you can see in other e-mails, non-related
 10 work e-mails are commonplace there.
 11 Q. When you say Gail is the head of
 12 computers --
 13 A. She does something with computers. And
 14 even, Sue had sent me stuff, Tony had, my two
 15 supervisors sent me things that were not related
 16 to work. Junk e-mail.
 17 Q. To take a look back at Exhibit No. 3, if
 18 we can pull it out of the exhibit stack. No. 3
 19 and No. 9. Exhibit No. 3 is a set of nested
 20 e-mails that you testified about at length
 21 previously, and I'm not going to ask you a lot of
 22 questions about, I just want to get this time
 23 line straight. Here is Exhibit No. 3. This is
 24 the e-mail we said nested e-mails dated June 4
 25 and June 7, 2004, you discussed previously where

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1 you were talking about whether V█████ knew about
 2 the detention letters at all the local hospitals.
 3 Do you remember discussing that?
 4 A. Whether V█████ knew about it?
 5 Q. Yes.
 6 A. I didn't discuss that, no.
 7 Q. During your deposition today, do you
 8 remember discussing that issue?
 9 A. About the detention letters and this
 10 e-mail, yes.
 11 Q. In fact, in the middle of the first page
 12 of Exhibit No. 3, I believe it's the first page,
 13 there's an e-mail dated Friday, June 4, 2004, at
 14 3:17 p.m. Do you see that?
 15 A. I'm sorry. Say that one more time.
 16 Q. Do you see the e-mail dated June 4, 2004,
 17 at 3:17 p.m.?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. It's an e-mail from Deanna Cosby to you
 20 saying "she will." Do you see that?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. That was in response to a prior e-mail
 23 that you sent to her saying, "I just spoke to
 24 V█████ last night, she was not in labor. Her
 25 attorney told V█████ that she has nothing to

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1 worry about when it comes to the unborn child.
 2 She told V█████ that we (OCY) cannot detain.
 3 V█████ is taking her attorney's advice, she is
 4 due any day. P█████ has detention letters at all
 5 the local hospitals. V█████ does not see this
 6 coming." Do you see that?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Deanna Cosby said, in response to that,
 9 "she will"?
 10 A. Right.
 11 Q. And you understood it to mean, she will
 12 see it coming.
 13 A. I understood, because I've -- I know
 14 exactly what I was thinking when this e-mail took
 15 place, and that Deanna -- first of all, Deanna is
 16 the one that brings up V█████ W█████ in this
 17 e-mail, not me.
 18 Q. My question to you --
 19 A. I didn't bring it up. I need to say
 20 something.
 21 MR. LANE: I'm going to get an
 22 answer to my question. She did it to him the
 23 whole day. I want an answer to my question.
 24 BY MR. LANE:
 25 Q. Did you understand "she will" to mean she

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1 will see it coming, that's all I'm asking you?
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. What did you understand it to mean, "she
 4 will?"
 5 A. Deanna is going to help this case.
 6 Q. And that was after, about two weeks after
 7 you had received an e-mail referenced in Exhibit
 8 No. 9, and at the top, it says, on Tuesday
 9 May 25, 2004, Deanna Cosby says to you, "Abby stop
 10 it you know I don't like ECOCY and I would do
 11 ANYTHING to see it go down in flames," right?
 12 A. This is the month before?
 13 Q. Two weeks before.
 14 A. Okay.
 15 Q. Right?
 16 A. You're right.
 17 Q. So two weeks after she says she would do
 18 anything to see ECOCY go down in flames, she sends
 19 you the e-mail identified in Exhibit 3 that says
 20 "she will," correct, and you interpret it however
 21 you interpret it, you just testified to that,
 22 right?
 23 A. Okay.
 24 Q. And in response to that interpretation,
 25 did you send her an e-mail saying "God bless you

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1 Deanna"?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. In your complaint in this case you allege
 4 that on or about July 9, 2004, you were
 5 transporting a minor three-year-old female and
 6 younger brother with visitation with their
 7 natural mother?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Who would that natural mother have been?
 10 A. Vickie Wilson.
 11 Q. When you arrived at the parking lot of
 12 the visitation site, you parked your car, W█████
 13 was also at the parking lot awaiting your
 14 arrival, correct?
 15 A. Yeah. I believe she was walking across
 16 the street, north parking lot.
 17 Q. You allege in your complaint,
 18 paragraph 16, after W█████ arrived at your car
 19 to remove the three-year-old from her car seat,
 20 the child was tugging on the car seat belt
 21 apparently anticipating getting out of her seat.
 22 Is that accurate?
 23 A. Yes, sir.
 24 Q. And you allege that W█████ forcibly
 25 grabbed the child's face with her left hand and

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1 forcibly yelled at her, yelling, no, no, no. And
 2 you thought that was a significant event, didn't
 3 you?

4 A. I thought it was inappropriate.

5 Q. Did you think it was child abuse?

6 MR. McNAIR: We already covered
 7 this.

8 Q. You didn't think it was child abuse?

9 A. I thought it was inappropriate.

10 Q. What does that mean?

11 A. That she, you know, physical abuse by
 12 definition would be, you know, slapping,
 13 punching, pulling, you know, something that would
 14 cause physical abrasions, bruising, whatever.
 15 When she grabbed her by the face, I just viewed
 16 it as very inappropriate. Wasn't sure how to
 17 take it.

18 Q. Did you report it to anybody?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. To whom did you report it?

21 A. I called the hot line and asked them what
 22 their thought was on it. I also talked to,
 23 because my supervisor was not in her office, was
 24 sick one day, there was like a series of things
 25 that had happened, and like the week of the next

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1 visits that were to occur, I talked to -- what is
 2 her name -- Christy Hulton.

3 Q. Who is Christy Hulton?

4 A. A supervisor who was, like, by acting
 5 supervisor-wise, while Sue was gone.

6 Q. What did Christy Hulton say?

7 A. She said she wanted me to repeat what I
 8 had seen to Pam Biroscak.

9 Q. What was Pam Biroscak's position?

10 A. She was Sue Deveney's supervisor.

11 Q. Did you repeat that?

12 A. I repeated what happened.

13 Q. Do you know when that happened?

14 A. No. I could find out, though.

15 Q. How long after the incident,
 16 approximately?

17 A. It was a week and a half, two weeks
 18 later. There was a series -- the family only got
 19 weekly visits.

20 Q. When was the first time you reported the
 21 incident that allegedly took place on June 9,
 22 2004?

23 MR. McNAIR: To whom?

24 Q. To anybody.

25 A. To Christy Hulton, I tried to report it

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1 to Sue. Sue was too busy on a couple occasions.
 2 There was twice I asked if I could speak to her,
 3 twice or three times, and she was too busy. And
 4 I talked to Christy because Sue wasn't there,
 5 like the following week, I couldn't wait any
 6 longer.

7 Q. When did you first try to talk to Sue
 8 about it?

9 A. Right after the incident happened, like
 10 the following day. I believe the incident -- I
 11 would have to look at my notes at home, my
 12 calendars. I believe it happened on a Wednesday.
 13 I think I approached Sue the following day,
 14 because I had cases from morning to night.

15 Q. And you thought this incident was
 16 important enough to attempt to contact Sue on a
 17 number of occasions, and when she didn't respond,
 18 to talk to somebody else about it?

19 A. Yes.

20 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 26
 21 was marked for identification.)

22 BY MR. JOYAL:

23 Q. I'm going to show you what I'm marking as
 24 Exhibit 26. Can you tell me what this is?

25 A. That is a date of contact.

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1 Q. What is a date of contact?

2 A. This is in the electronic system. It
 3 basically says the type of visit that occurred.

4 Q. Do you enter that into the computer?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you --

7 A. Sometimes secretaries do. It depends.

8 Q. Did you enter this into the computer?

9 A. I don't know for sure.

10 Q. It says entered by Abby Conley. Does
 11 that mean anything to you?

12 A. Yeah. You can enter any name. The
 13 system itself is set up that you can add or
 14 delete information. I'm really leery about
 15 saying anything about this, because anyone can go
 16 in and edit this. I do not recall exactly what I
 17 wrote that day.

18 Q. You can read this, and then you can
 19 answer this question. Would you agree with me
 20 that Exhibit 26, which is a date of contact entry
 21 in the computer dated June 9, 2004, says
 22 absolutely nothing about this incident with P. [redacted]
 23 W. [redacted] that you're alleging?

24 A. I don't think that I put it in there,
 25 because I wanted to talk to my supervisor

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1 A. Just that I had breach of confidentiality
 2 by the phone number. I can't remember
 3 everything. I'm sorry. I'm really tired.

4 Q. By the way, there was an investigation
 5 done into your contention that P. W. [REDACTED]
 6 acted inappropriately on June 9, 2004, is that
 7 correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the results of that investigation
 10 were that the charges were unfounded, correct?

11 A. Yes. I agreed with the woman.

12 Q. You agreed with the woman?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That the charges were unfounded?

15 A. Yes, because according to her terms,
 16 because P. [REDACTED] did not kick, scratch, punch, throw
 17 D. [REDACTED], that that was not viewed as physical
 18 abuse. I can see the wisdom in that. It was
 19 inappropriate, but it was not physical abuse.

20 Q. You agree there was no wrongdoing on the
 21 part of P. W. [REDACTED]?

22 A. I would not agree with that, no.

23 Q. There was wrongdoing?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. It just didn't violate any statute or

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1 code or anything like that, right?

2 A. It violated -- we really should not in
 3 child welfare be grabbing children by the face
 4 and the child gets out of the car, she is
 5 obviously whiney through the visit and it causes
 6 a problem. It was inappropriate.

7 Q. My question was, did it violate a
 8 statute, or code or any other regulation that you
 9 know?

10 A. No, sir, not that I know of.

11 Q. I'm going to show you Exhibits 27, 28,
 12 and 29 in that numerical order.

13 (Conley Deposition Exhibit Nos. 27
 14 through and including 29 were marked for
 15 identification.)

16 BY MR. LANE:

17 Q. In your complaint you make a claim of
 18 defamation against John Onorato. You allege that
 19 John Onorato made some comments to a Times News
 20 reporter that were published on January 17, 2005,
 21 do you remember that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And in your complaint, in paragraph 63,
 24 you allege that Onorato in his statements that
 25 were published on January 17, 2005, stated to the

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1 Times News reporter that Ms. Conley had
 2 committed, quote, "an egregious breach of
 3 confidentiality," unquote, and that the large
 4 bill was justified in defense of the children.
 5 Yes?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And those statements were published in
 8 January 2005, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. That's the time you believe the
 11 defamation occurred, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Prior to January 2005, there were several
 14 articles published in the Erie Times News about
 15 you, correct?

16 A. About me going to the state civil
 17 service, yes.

18 Q. You were in the papers, right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In fact, your picture appeared in the
 21 paper, a photograph?

22 A. They had done a story about me, my life
 23 before.

24 Q. And Exhibit No. 27 is an article
 25 published October 4, 2004, a few months before

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1 January 2005?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. With your photograph and some information
 4 about the whole story, is that correct?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Do you know when that photograph was
 7 taken?

8 A. Yeah. A couple of years ago, they did an
 9 Easter story on hope and they talked about people
 10 that inspired hope. It was a file photo that the
 11 Times News had. I hate it. They have it on
 12 file.

13 Q. On the second page of that article, in
 14 the middle of the page it says, "Her lawyer,
 15 Anthony Angelone, said Conley has a strong case."
 16 Do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. It quotes him. Do you see those quotes
 19 in the next three paragraphs?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Did you authorize Mr. Angelone to speak
 22 on your behalf to the paper?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did he make unauthorized statements to
 25 the paper?

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1 A. I just kind of assumed attorneys could do
 2 that. I don't think we ever talked about it.
 3 Q. Did you ever give Mr. Angelone authority
 4 to make comments to the paper so that you didn't
 5 have to?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. Did you know Mr. Angelone was making
 8 comments to the paper on your behalf?
 9 A. I think that he would talk to the paper
 10 if he had to.
 11 Q. Did you ever reprimand him for making
 12 comments to the paper about you?
 13 A. No. It's not my place.
 14 Q. Did you ever tell him you didn't want to
 15 be a public figure or quoted in the paper,
 16 anything like that?
 17 A. I definitely don't like it.
 18 Q. Did you ever tell him that, was my
 19 question.
 20 A. I think I did. I don't like all the
 21 publicity.
 22 Q. Do you know if he commented to the paper
 23 anyway?
 24 A. I don't know.
 25 Q. I'm going to next show you out of order

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1 Exhibit 29, save 28 for next.
 2 MR. McNAIR: Do you have copies of
 3 these?
 4 MR. LANE: I do, but I'm trying to
 5 save time here. Can I give them to you in a few
 6 minutes?
 7 MR. McNAIR: Okay.
 8 BY MR. LANE:
 9 Q. This is an article published
 10 September 17, 2004 entitled "Counsel Eyes OCY
 11 Probe."
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Do you remember this being published?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And if you go down to the second to the
 16 last full paragraph on the bottom with a little
 17 dash in front of it, it says, "The lawyer for
 18 Conley said Conley is contemplating suing the
 19 county."
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. "Attorney Anthony Angelone said that
 22 based on what Conley told him, Schenker and
 23 officials at OCY 'coerced' Conley into signing a
 24 prewritten letter of resignation, and that
 25 Schenker used unfounded reasons to get rid of

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1 her."
 2 Q. Do you see that?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. The next paragraph says, "Angelone
 5 declined to be specific," do you see that?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. The following paragraphs says, "Angelone
 8 said the officials told Conley that they would
 9 consider filing criminal charges against her if
 10 she did not sign the resignation letter."
 11 Q. Do you see that?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Quote from Angelone that says, "The
 14 reasons that they gave her for her termination
 15 are obviously pretexts for some other
 16 motivation," do you see that?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And then the next line says, "Conley
 19 declined comment and referred questions to
 20 Angelone."
 21 Q. Is that accurate, you declined comment
 22 and referred questions to Angelone?
 23 A. I asked them to call my attorney.
 24 Q. And that your attorney would comment on
 25 these things?

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1 A. That's not what I said. What I said, my
 2 attorney told me I am not allowed to talk to the
 3 press.
 4 Q. Did you ever instruct your attorney to
 5 instruct the press that he had no comment about
 6 you or your involvement in any of this?
 7 A. No.
 8 Q. Next I'm going to show you Exhibit
 9 No. 28, which is another article published --
 10 A. I don't think I did. I think I talked
 11 about him -- I didn't like that, all this was
 12 being aired in the press.
 13 Q. But it was being aired in the press,
 14 correct?
 15 A. Yeah.
 16 Q. And you were in the press before
 17 January 2005 when Onorato made any comments,
 18 correct?
 19 A. The situation was, yes.
 20 Q. And you were in the papers and a lot of
 21 stories were written about your involvement,
 22 correct?
 23 A. Yeah. The Sunday after I got fired, it
 24 was on the front page of the newspaper.
 25 Q. Next I'll show you Exhibit 28, which is

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1 another article published on September 17, 2004.
 2 A. I remember this, too.
 3 Q. The title of it is "Telephone number
 4 crucial to aide's case," correct?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. The first page of the article in the
 7 bottom four paragraphs, Anthony Angelone is
 8 quoted as making statements, correct?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And that's the time he was serving as
 11 your attorney, correct?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And on the second page, the top two
 14 paragraphs, Mr. Angelone, as your attorney, was
 15 making statements, correct? He's quoted?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. In fact, the second paragraph on the
 18 second page Angelone says, quote, "It was
 19 coerced." Right?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. And then he makes more statements that
 22 are quoted, correct?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. You make a claim in this case that your
 25 reputation was tarnished as a result of the

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1 actions of the various defendants. Do you know
 2 that?
 3 A. Yes, I read that.
 4 Q. Did you have a good reputation before,
 5 say, September 10, 2004?
 6 A. Did I have a good reputation? I don't
 7 know. You're asking me what my reputation is, I
 8 don't know. It's not something that is issued in
 9 a report card. I don't know what my reputation
 10 is.
 11 Q. You contended that you had your
 12 reputation tarnished, correct? You lost your
 13 reputation. Did you know you made that claim in
 14 this case?
 15 A. I have read that complaint. You're
 16 talking to the complaint that is sent to the
 17 Federal court?
 18 Q. Yes.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. You don't know what your reputation was
 21 like before September 10, 2004, though, is that
 22 what you're telling me?
 23 A. Yeah. I really don't. I don't think
 24 that -- I mean, what is a reputation, you know
 25 what I said.

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1 Q. You were arrested for a DUI in November
 2 of 1999.
 3 A. What does that have to do with anything?
 4 Q. Did people know about that?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. Nobody knew about your arrest for DUI in
 7 1999?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Did anybody know about your two attempted
 10 suicides?
 11 A. Yes. I think that when they did the
 12 profile of me, I talked about problems with drug
 13 and alcohol. I talked about two attempts of
 14 suicide. It wasn't anything that I hid.
 15 Q. Did anybody believe that you, while
 16 working for the Erie County Department of Health,
 17 had torn the department to shreds, to your
 18 knowledge?
 19 A. To what?
 20 Q. To shreds.
 21 A. I'm sorry. I don't understand your
 22 question.
 23 Q. Did anybody believe that you disrupted
 24 the Erie County Department of Health by virtue of
 25 your activities there?

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1 MR. McNAIR: I object to the
 2 relevance of the question. What one person may
 3 believe doesn't constitute evidence of
 4 reputation.
 5 MR. LANE: Sure it does.
 6 Absolutely. Because it may not be one person.
 7 It may be several people that know this and
 8 believe that.
 9 MR. McNAIR: Then that would be
 10 reputation.
 11 MR. LANE: We're going to keep
 12 getting into it.
 13 MR. McNAIR: We'll deal with it at
 14 another time. Some other time. Yes.
 15 MR. LANE: We can finish it at
 16 another time, but I'm close to being done. Do
 17 you want to finish it some other time? We can,
 18 if you have to go.
 19 MR. McNAIR: We've been here a long
 20 time. This is getting repetitive.
 21 MR. LANE: This is repetitive? I
 22 don't remember asking about, or anybody asking
 23 about her reputation.
 24 MR. McNAIR: I'll give you five
 25 minutes to wrap it up.

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1 MR. LANE: You know what?
 2 MR. McNAIR: You're entitled to one
 3 day of seven hours. You've had it.
 4 MR. LANE: I haven't had it. I
 5 think I'm asking new questions.
 6 MR. McNAIR: You and your
 7 co-counsel.
 8 MR. LANE: I'll try to finish up.
 9 BY MR. LANE:
 10 Q. You are making a claim in this case for
 11 mental anguish, do you know that?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. You had mental anguish before
 14 September 10, 2004, didn't you?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. Significant mental anguish?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Did you seek, after September 10, 2004,
 19 any medical treatment for mental anguish?
 20 A. My doctor wanted to put me on
 21 antidepressants, but I didn't.
 22 Q. What doctor was that?
 23 A. Dr. Kalata.
 24 Q. How do you spell that?
 25 A. K-A-L-A-T-A.

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1 Q. What is Dr. Kalata's first name?
 2 A. John, Jr., Kalata.
 3 Q. What is his professional address?
 4 A. I don't know his professional address,
 5 but he's on Eighth Street, Eighth and Parade.
 6 Q. In Erie?
 7 A. Yes, sir.
 8 Q. How long have you been seeing Dr. Kalata?
 9 A. Off and on for years.
 10 Q. How many visits did you go to with
 11 Dr. Kalata about any type of mental anguish after
 12 September 10, 2004?
 13 A. After this? Just one.
 14 Q. So that is one visit for mental anguish
 15 after September 10.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And prior to September 10, 2004, had you
 18 treated with Dr. Kalata for mental anguish?
 19 A. Prior, yes. No. In 2000, I think, you
 20 know, like 1999, 2000, during that whole
 21 depression bout.
 22 Q. You treated with him?
 23 A. Yeah.
 24 Q. And from, let's say, November of '99 up
 25 until September 10, 2004, was he your sole

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1 primary care physician?
 2 A. Yes. Well, no. He wasn't my sole -- I
 3 had one other doctor that I saw for my asthma. I
 4 can't recall his name, on Peach Street.
 5 Q. But that was just for asthma?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Would Dr. Kalata have referred you to
 8 that doctor?
 9 A. No. I got a referral that he was a good
 10 doctor, because I had severe asthma.
 11 Q. Have you ever treated with a
 12 psychiatrist?
 13 A. For a time, just before going to OCY, I
 14 did. Pat Hanna.
 15 MR. McNAIR: Just so the record is
 16 clear, Pat Hanna is not a psychiatrist. He is a
 17 psychologist.
 18 MR. LANE: Thank you.
 19 BY MR. LANE:
 20 Q. Where is Pat Hanna's office?
 21 A. I believe he was out on West 38th Street
 22 at the time. It's been years since I went out
 23 there. I think he has moved.
 24 Q. Is he still in Erie, do you know?
 25 A. I think he is, because I saw him at OCY

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1 before. He is like, it just so happens he does
 2 contract stuff with them for staff.
 3 Q. Other than Pat Hanna, have you treated
 4 with any other psychologist during your lifetime?
 5 A. Just when I was in foster care.
 6 Q. Back when you were a child?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Do you recognize the distinction between
 9 a psychologist and a psychiatrist?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Psychiatrist is a medical doctor?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Have you treated with any psychiatrists?
 14 A. No. Just when I was really depressed,
 15 but like I said, I ended up getting taken off
 16 that medicine.
 17 Q. What hospital --
 18 A. It made me sick.
 19 Q. It made you sick?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Do you know what medicine it was?
 22 A. I don't remember.
 23 Q. What hospital were you admitted to when
 24 you attempted suicide?
 25 A. St. Vincent's.

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1 Q. Were you put in a psychiatric care unit?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Did people know about that?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Have you taken any medication for any
 6 type of mental anguish since September 10, 2004?
 7 A. No. My doctor, like I said, tried to
 8 prescribe it, but I'm not going to go down that
 9 pike. I talked to my pastor and my pastor's wife
 10 and they counsel me. And I don't have to take
 11 medication. I don't feel depressed.
 12 Q. You testified previously about an
 13 individual, I forget the name, I apologize, that
 14 came to work for OCY, I believe as an intern or
 15 student?
 16 A. Yes. Zin Kates (phonetic).
 17 Q. You said she was Christian. Do you
 18 remember that?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. That meant to you she worked hard, an
 21 honest day's work for an honest day's living?
 22 A. Something along those lines.
 23 Q. Is it your belief that Jews don't do
 24 that?
 25 A. Absolutely they do.

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1 Q. Is it your belief that Hindus don't do
 2 that?
 3 A. No.
 4 Q. Why was it significant she was a
 5 Christian, that she would put in a good day for
 6 an honest day's pay?
 7 A. Because there was a sisterhood with her.
 8 She was like-minded. She worked hard. I related
 9 to her. I also think I commented that she was
 10 normal and wanted to make empowerment. It wasn't
 11 something -- I wasn't really heavy into some
 12 topic labeling somebody because of their
 13 Christian values.
 14 Q. What church do you belong to?
 15 A. Family Worship Center.
 16 Q. Where is that located?
 17 A. 1201 Parade Street.
 18 Q. How long have you been a member there?
 19 A. A couple of years now.
 20 Q. Since you lived in Erie, what other
 21 churches have you belonged to?
 22 A. First Assembly.
 23 Q. Any others?
 24 A. I went to St. Hedwig's for a while, which
 25 is like next door to my house.

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1 Q. St. Hedwig's?
 2 A. Yes, sir.
 3 Q. What kind of church is that?
 4 A. Catholic.
 5 Q. Are you Catholic?
 6 A. Christian.
 7 Q. Do you consider yourself to be of any
 8 particular denomination of Christianity?
 9 A. No. I guess -- I don't know. Assembly
 10 of God, Full Gospel.
 11 Q. I'm sorry. Did you recall where First
 12 Assembly of God is located?
 13 A. Out on Oliver Road.
 14 Q. Is that in Erie?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. By the way, you did sign that resignation
 17 letter on September 10, 2004, correct?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Almost done. I appreciate your
 20 accommodating the time.
 21 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 30
 22 was marked for identification.)
 23 BY MR. LANE:
 24 Q. I'm going to show you what I've marked as
 25 Exhibit 30. Is that the resignation letter you

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1 signed on September 10, 2004?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Did you report the W█████ incident to,
 4 like, a district attorney or anybody like that?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. To whom did you report it and when?
 7 A. Actually, not the P████ W████ incident,
 8 the altering of my court document.
 9 Q. I'm talking about the P████ W████
 10 incident. Did you report that to anybody outside
 11 of OCY?
 12 A. I talked to the hotline and asked them
 13 what they thought about it, whether, you know, it
 14 qualified as physical abuse or, you know, what I
 15 should do. I told them my capacity at OCY.
 16 Q. What is the hotline?
 17 A. Hotline is a number locally that you call
 18 when you have concerns about child welfare
 19 issues. It was after I went home that night, or
 20 the next day, I called and asked, and asked them
 21 about whether or not it should be reported to DPW
 22 and just my concerns, you know, that I was going
 23 to talk to my supervisor.
 24 Q. Do you know who operates the hotline?
 25 A. No.

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1 Q. How did you know to call the hotline?
 2 A. That's what they tell people through the
 3 office of the children and youth, if you suspect
 4 abuse, to call that hotline number.
 5 Q. At OCY, who were your clients, the
 6 children, or the parents?
 7 A. Both.
 8 Q. They were both your clients?
 9 A. Absolutely.
 10 Q. Whose interest were you supposed to
 11 protect, the children's or the parents?
 12 A. All.
 13 Q. You weren't just looking out for the
 14 child?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. If the child's interest conflicted with
 17 the parents', were you supposed to make a
 18 judgment call as to who you were supposed to look
 19 out for, or how did that work?
 20 A. I'm not following your train of question.
 21 Q. Let's suppose the parents beat the child,
 22 but the parents wanted custody of the child,
 23 okay. Whose interest were you supposed to look
 24 out for in that circumstance?
 25 A. Okay. I'm witnessing this beating?

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1 Q. Sure.
 2 A. Absolutely the child.
 3 Q. So the child's interests were paramount?
 4 A. Yes. In that synopsis, definitely.
 5 Q. On your last day of employment for the
 6 Erie County Department of Health, were you
 7 escorted out of the office?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. By whom?
 10 A. Char Calobsky and KiKi Loch (phonetic).
 11 Q. Why did they escort you out, do you know?
 12 A. No.
 13 Q. Did they tell you a reason why they
 14 escorted you out?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. Were you asked to resign?
 17 MR. McNAIR: What do you mean by
 18 asked?
 19 Q. Did somebody request that you resign from
 20 your employment there?
 21 A. I was explained that that was one of the
 22 options that I should take.
 23 Q. Were you given any other options?
 24 A. He didn't tell me all of the other
 25 options, but Onorato said that charging me or

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1 going to the DA's office was something that was a
 2 possibility. Because I gave out the phone
 3 number.
 4 Q. I'm talking about the Department of
 5 Health.
 6 A. Oh, was I escorted out?
 7 Q. Yes.
 8 A. I don't remember. I'm sorry.
 9 Q. You said you were escorted out by Char --
 10 A. That was at the Office of Children and
 11 Youth. I went back and got my belongings off of
 12 my desk and I had personal items.
 13 Q. You allege in your complaint that the
 14 comments made by John Onorato were motivated by
 15 personal and political animus against you. What
 16 personal animus did John Onorato have against
 17 you?
 18 A. I am not sure what my -- my attorney
 19 wrote that document.
 20 Q. Do you know of any personal animus he had
 21 against you?
 22 A. I don't know how my attorney means that
 23 statement.
 24 Q. Well, you read it before it was filed.
 25 A. Yeah, and there are parts of that that I

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1 wasn't really sure what it meant.
 2 Q. So you don't know what that means?
 3 A. I'm not positive about that part, no,
 4 sir.
 5 Q. What political animus did he have against
 6 you?
 7 A. Well, definitely I would think that
 8 working -- I don't know, politics. I was a
 9 member of the Democratic party, I don't know,
 10 there's a lot of, you know, he's on the
 11 Republican side, I'm on the Democrat side.
 12 Again, that was written by my attorney, so I wish
 13 Anthony was here, because he would be able to --
 14 he wrote that based on things that I told him. I
 15 just don't understand necessarily the definition
 16 in legal terms as it's written.
 17 Q. Do you have anything that leads you to
 18 conclude that John Onorato has personal animus to
 19 all Democrats?
 20 A. I don't know.
 21 Q. Well, you said that you think he might
 22 have personal animus against you because you're a
 23 Democrat?
 24 A. I'm trying to lean towards --
 25 MR. McNAIR: She said that in

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1 response to your question about political animus,
 2 not personal animus.

3 MR. LANE: Exactly.

4 BY MR. LANE:

5 Q. Does he have that, some sort of grudge or
 6 problem with Democrats in general that you know
 7 of?

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. So that is what I'm trying to get to.

10 What supports this statement that John Onorato
 11 was motivated by political animus against you?

12 A. I would really need to correspond with my
 13 attorney and ask him what those lines meant.

14 Q. You can't tell me right now?

15 A. No. I just don't think Anthony would
 16 have written something off the cuff that didn't
 17 apply to something.

18 Q. Well, Anthony got all his facts from you.

19 A. Right. That's why I'm leaning...

20 MR. McNAIR: It's not a factual
 21 pleading. It's a notice pleading.

22 MR. LANE: That's a fact. That is a
 23 fact statement that Onorato was motivated by
 24 personal and political animus against Ms. Conley.
 25 That is not notice. That is a statement of fact

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1 or an allegation of fact, at least.

2 MR. McNAIR: Of -- right.

3 MR. LANE: I'm trying to get to the
 4 basis of that.

5 BY MR. LANE:

6 Q. And you're telling me you don't know?

7 A. I would really like to talk to Anthony,
 8 because I'm thinking he wrote that based on
 9 something I said. I just don't understand the
 10 legal terminology, its content.

11 Q. But you, sitting here today, can't tell
 12 me of any facts that you know of that leads you
 13 to conclude that Onorato had any type of personal
 14 animus or political animus against you, right?

15 A. I'm not sure.

16 MR. McNAIR: At what point?

17 MR. LANE: At any point.

18 MR. JOYAL: Culminating

19 September 10.

20 MR. McNAIR: Defamation occurred in
 21 January when it was exposed that he spent
 22 \$68,000.

23 MR. LANE: We already covered it at
 24 any point. There's no big deal. Let's get it
 25 done.

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1 MR. McNAIR: Great.

2 BY MR. LANE:

3 Q. When you went to work at OCY, did you
 4 notify anyone at OCY about your mental health
 5 issues that you had encountered?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Who?

8 A. John Petulla, who was the director at the
 9 time, was aware. I talked about it, that I had
 10 attempted -- the Times did a story. When that
 11 file footage came from, I talked about it then,
 12 too.

13 Q. How did you communicate that to -- I'm
 14 sorry, who was it?

15 A. John Petulla. During my interviews upon
 16 hiring, I talked to him about depression and
 17 getting better and he was aware of it. At that
 18 point, I was okay, you know, I was off the
 19 medication. There was a lot of things that
 20 happened in that window of time in my life,
 21 absolutely devastating things.

22 Q. Did you fill out a written application
 23 for OCY?

24 MR. McNAIR: We've covered this.

25 A. No. There's already an application on

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1 file. I simply bid on it. I was on a medical
 2 leave.

3 Q. You can answer it no. We will get done
 4 quicker. So there's nowhere in writing what you
 5 notified OCY of your mental health issues, is
 6 that correct?

7 A. I don't think so.

8 Q. You don't think it's correct?

9 A. I don't think that I put it in writing,
 10 no.

11 MR. LANE: Because of the time
 12 allotments, I'm going to stop there. I
 13 appreciate your indulgence.

14 MR. McNAIR: I have a few questions.

EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. McNAIR:

16 Q. Do you know whether Mr. Onorato was
 17 embarrassed by the disclosure the county spent
 18 \$68,000 defending your civil service claim
 19 without even going to a hearing and that the
 20 money went to the McDonald Illig Jones and
 21 Britton firm which has as a partner the
 22 Republican chair?

23 MR. LANE: Objection. Leading, move
 24 to strike.

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1 MR. JOYAL: Objection. Move to
 2 strike.
 3 BY MR. MCNAIR:
 4 Q. Do you know if he was embarrassed by
 5 that?
 6 A. I don't know. I see. Now it's your turn
 7 to ask me questions?
 8 Q. Yes. Did you believe at any time, that
 9 V█████ W█████ should have custody of the newborn
 10 child?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. Did you believe that V█████ W█████ or the
 13 child would be better off if she had custody of
 14 the child or if the child wasn't detained?
 15 A. I had some real questions about V█████.
 16 Q. Did you believe that V█████ W█████'s
 17 parenting skills were adequate?
 18 A. She had problems.
 19 Q. Did you ever see any order for detention
 20 or detention letters --
 21 A. No.
 22 Q. -- in the V█████ W█████ case?
 23 A. No. They don't give it to case aides.
 24 Q. Did you need to see those or know that
 25 such an order had been entered to know that

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1 V█████ W█████'s infant was going to be detained?
 2 A. No. I knew by the circumstances, because
 3 she was so close to birth that the probability of
 4 detention letters being placed at the hospitals
 5 was 100 percent. Especially in lieu of the fact
 6 that she was involved -- that the father of the
 7 infant child was involved in a bank robbery. I
 8 knew we were going to detain.
 9 Q. And that was --
 10 A. But I didn't have any knowledge about
 11 detention letters. They don't correspond that
 12 stuff with us.
 13 Q. Did you volunteer publicity in connection
 14 with your publicity?
 15 A. No. I begged that it didn't come out.
 16 Q. Did you feel that it was necessary to
 17 respond to accusations that were made against you
 18 in the newspaper?
 19 MR. LANE: Objection. Leading.
 20 Move to strike.
 21 BY MR. MCNAIR:
 22 Q. You can answer.
 23 A. I wanted to talk, but I couldn't.
 24 Q. Did the Office of Children and Youth
 25 tolerate the use of e-mail such as forwarding

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1 that poem about Satan and similar activities?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 MR. LANE: Objection. Leading, move
 4 to strike.
 5 Q. Was that an uncommon occurrence, that
 6 somebody would forward something to you?
 7 A. Every day my e-mail was filled with junk
 8 mail. Everybody in the building does it.
 9 Q. And was that something that was known to
 10 supervisors?
 11 A. Yes. Supervisors even sent junk e-mail.
 12 Q. Did Sue Deveney ever send you junk
 13 e-mail?
 14 A. Yes, she did, on several occasions.
 15 Q. What type of things would she send you?
 16 A. Spiritual stuff. Happy stuff, you know,
 17 just...
 18 Q. Religious things?
 19 A. Yeah.
 20 Q. And did Gail Smith, was Gail Smith, you
 21 said, the head of computers?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. At the Office of Children and Youth?
 24 A. Well, she does something along those
 25 lines, like she does the computers and phone

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1 lines and she is like a supervisor for that
 2 category.
 3 Q. And when she e-mailed you and told you
 4 that she had already forwarded that poem about
 5 Satan to your home e-mail, did she caution you
 6 that you were violating e-mail policy by
 7 forwarding it to her?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Prior to September 9, had anyone ever
 10 talked to you about using the e-mail system to
 11 forward items such as that?
 12 A. Not that I recall. Everybody does it.
 13 Q. Is that something that is generally
 14 tolerated --
 15 A. Yeah.
 16 Q. -- by management?
 17 A. Yeah. They know it. They do it, too.
 18 Even --
 19 Q. After February of '04, let's go to the
 20 V█████ W█████ case -- let me back up. Was there
 21 a court hearing in the V█████ W█████ case prior
 22 to Deanna Cosby leaving her job and going to
 23 Mecklenburg County?
 24 A. Yes, I believe there was.
 25 Q. And was there an order entered as a

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1 result of that hearing changing the way in which
 2 the agency was to approach that case?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. How was that agency's approach to change?
 5 A. That they were supposed to increase the
 6 supervision of this particular family due to
 7 mom's involvement with the father of the baby.
 8 Q. And how long after that order was entered
 9 was it that Deanna left?
 10 A. Shortly after that.
 11 Q. And to whom was the case reassigned?
 12 A. P. W. [REDACTED]
 13 Q. Did P. W. [REDACTED] comply with that court
 14 order? Or did she do more --
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. -- have more contact with the family than
 17 Deanna?
 18 A. She, when Deanna left, so did the case
 19 management. With the exception of an hour and 45
 20 minutes, that case for a quarter of a year did
 21 not have a caseworker after Deanna left.
 22 Q. With regard to your witnessing the
 23 incident where P. W. [REDACTED] grabbed V. W. [REDACTED]
 24 W. [REDACTED]'s child by the face and shook her, did you
 25 attempt to report that up your chain of command?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And how many attempts did you make to
 3 report that up your chain of command before you
 4 went outside the chain of command?
 5 A. I actually, I think, spoke to the hotline
 6 the night that it happened, or when I got home
 7 that day, and then I attempted several times to
 8 talk to Sue, the supervisor, and she, on a couple
 9 occasions she was too busy, told me, you know, we
 10 would meet and she ended up, I don't know, she
 11 had a sick day or something. There was a series
 12 of events that occurred that she wasn't able to
 13 meet with me, and I felt that I had some time
 14 before the next visit, but before the next visit
 15 I went to the supervisor.
 16 Q. Would Deanna Cosby have known with any
 17 degree of certainty that detention orders would
 18 have been in place against V. W. [REDACTED]?
 19 A. Sure. It was her case. She knew the
 20 case better than anybody. She knew the baby was
 21 going to be detained.
 22 Q. And do you know whether or not Deanna
 23 Cosby was opposed to the baby being detained?
 24 A. She supported the concept.
 25 Q. Of having the baby detained?

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1 A. I believe to kinship care.
 2 Q. So V. W. [REDACTED] --
 3 A. That was always --
 4 Q. Deanna thought that V. W. [REDACTED]'s baby should
 5 be turned over to family rather than --
 6 A. Rather than foster care.
 7 Q. Why was that?
 8 A. It's less invasive. There's no question
 9 the baby needed to be detained. The kinship care
 10 is better for the child. That is the -- I don't
 11 know, the theory or the science at OCY, is that
 12 it's just easier, I think there's -- it's called
 13 the Safe Families Act, and they also say that all
 14 options through the family should be examined
 15 prior to placing a child in foster care. It's
 16 just the science of social work.
 17 Q. In any of these e-mails that went back
 18 and forth between you and Deanna, did you at any
 19 time disclose to Deanna any information that she
 20 didn't already know?
 21 A. No.
 22 MR. LANE: Objection. Lack of
 23 foundation.
 24 MR. JOYAL: Right. Absolutely.
 25 Q. You reviewed all those e-mails today?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. We went over them at some length?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. You're familiar with the statements
 5 contained in them?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Did any of those statements contain
 8 information that Deanna Cosby did not already
 9 know?
 10 MR. LANE: Objection, lack of
 11 foundation. Speculation.
 12 MR. McNAIR: You can follow it up.
 13 MR. LANE: I'm posing my objection.
 14 MR. JOYAL: We will follow up.
 15 THE WITNESS: Can you say the
 16 question one more time?
 17 BY MR. McNAIR:
 18 Q. In all these e-mails between you and
 19 Deanna Cosby that we reviewed today, at any time
 20 did you tell Deanna anything that she did not or
 21 would not have already known?
 22 A. No.
 23 Q. So did you --
 24 A. Or that she could have found out. I
 25 think the information she can -- she could have

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1 got on line and gone to goErie.com. There are
 2 things I told her that was on the web site or in
 3 the newspaper.

4 Q. Did V█████ have any objection to you
 5 discussing her case with Deanna?

6 MR. LANE: Objection. Lack of
 7 foundation.

8 Q. Did you ever discuss with V█████?

9 A. She asked me over and over and over again
 10 to please get ahold of Deanna because they wanted
 11 her expertise in the case. She wasn't being
 12 serviced. The system is broke at OCY.

13 Q. So did V█████ ask you to contact Deanna?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And did she ask you to discuss V█████'s
 16 case with Deanna?

17 A. Yes, and tell her that they need her and
 18 to call Amy and that she wanted her to come to
 19 the Court hearing.

20 Q. Did V█████ W█████ ask you to have Deanna
 21 contact Amy Jones?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now, do you know whether or not anyone
 24 other than Deanna told V█████ about the
 25 probability of a detention order?

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1 A. I'm sorry?

2 Q. Did anybody besides Deanna tell V█████
 3 that there was going to be a detention order?

4 MR. JOYAL: Objection. Speculation.

5 MR. LANE: Join.

6 BY MR. MCNAIR:

7 Q. You can answer.

8 A. Actually, Amy Jones, I believe, told her,
 9 and I also believe that Lisa Copazinski
 10 (phonetic), I know that Lisa Copazinski told her,
 11 because Lisa told me she told her. The other way
 12 it was second-hand information, but Lisa
 13 Copazinski told V█████ W█████ that OCY was going
 14 to be detaining the baby. Project First Step is,
 15 works along the case, and she was very specific
 16 about that with V█████.

17 Q. Was there at any time any action, any
 18 need for the Office of Children and Youth to take
 19 any action or spend money to defend children from
 20 you?

21 A. No.

22 Q. If a statement was made that the OCY took
 23 action to defend children from you, would that
 24 statement be true or false?

25 MR. JOYAL: Objection.

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1 A. False.

2 MR. MCNAIR: That's all the
 3 questions I have.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. JOYAL:

6 Q. Follow up based on what he -- did you
 7 take your oath seriously?

8 MR. MCNAIR: Objection. She is not
 9 going to answer that. That is so insulting.

BY MR. JOYAL:

11 Q. Do you take your oath to tell the truth
 12 seriously?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Take a look back at Exhibit No. 3. In
 15 response to one of the questions that Mr. McNair
 16 asked you, you said that you did not tell Deanna
 17 Cosby about any detention letters, yet you
 18 already wrote in there that there were detention
 19 letters at all the hospitals?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. When Deanna Cosby said -- when you said
 22 she had, didn't know it was coming and Deanna
 23 Cosby said she will, did you write her back or
 24 call her and say, wait a minute, I think this
 25 baby needs to be detained, because there are

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1 issues with V█████'s parenting?

2 A. I already knew that Deanna wanted to put
 3 kinship --

4 Q. That wasn't my question. Did you call
 5 her back and ask her whether or not she should
 6 not get involved in this because there was some
 7 issues that you had with her parenting skills?
 8 Yes or no.

9 A. We did have a conversation with my
 10 concerns, yes.

11 Q. When?

12 A. I don't remember if it was before or
 13 after this.

14 Q. Well, at some point where did that baby
 15 finally get placed?

16 A. Kinship care.

17 Q. With the grandmother?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. R█████ B█████'s mother, and that was right
 20 out of the hospital?

21 A. I don't know. I wasn't on the case after
 22 that.

23 Q. You weren't on the case because you
 24 asked -- did you ask V█████ W█████ where the baby
 25 went?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. You know she was placed with R [REDACTED]
 3 B [REDACTED] mother?
 4 A. I did know that.
 5 Q. So it was kinship care?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Now, at that point in time, Deanna Cosby
 8 had nothing to do with that, is that correct?
 9 A. With the placement?
 10 Q. With the placement of the baby.
 11 A. I don't know.
 12 Q. She hadn't testified?
 13 A. I don't think she did.
 14 Q. You saw the letters where you said you
 15 couldn't believe that Deanna would have told her
 16 to leave town, okay. V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] wanted to
 17 keep that child, isn't that true?
 18 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 19 Q. Isn't that true?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. And V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] wrote that to R [REDACTED]
 22 B [REDACTED] that she wanted to keep that child, isn't
 23 that true?
 24 A. (Witness nodding head.)
 25 Q. And the reason V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] wanted

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1 Deanna Cosby to testify was so she could keep the
 2 child and not that your concerns would be allayed
 3 and she would go into care, but that she would
 4 keep the child, isn't that true?
 5 A. I don't know why V [REDACTED] wanted -- I don't
 6 know if -- I never even thought about it that
 7 deep before. I thought that V [REDACTED] needed some
 8 direction with her case. She was minus a
 9 caseworker.
 10 Q. V [REDACTED] had a lawyer, correct?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. V [REDACTED]'s lawyer, V [REDACTED] could have gone
 13 to her lawyer or V [REDACTED] could have gone to
 14 anybody at OCY and said I need direction with my
 15 case. I'm without a caseworker, is that right?
 16 A. I think she did do that.
 17 Q. To whom besides you?
 18 A. She complained all the time that P [REDACTED]
 19 wasn't there. Lisa Copazinski also complained.
 20 MR. MCNAIR: Don't interrupt her.
 21 MR. JOYAL: Don't point your finger.
 22 MR. MCNAIR: We're out of here.
 23 A. She didn't come to the visits.
 24 Q. Who didn't come?
 25 A. The caseworker.

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1 Q. And is it illegal or is it sometimes, is
 2 it unheard of at OCY that a client petitions for
 3 another caseworker, and asks for someone else to
 4 come and take over their case, is it unheard of?
 5 A. P [REDACTED] was taken off the case.
 6 Q. My question was, is it unheard of in OCY
 7 for a client to petition and ask for another
 8 worker?
 9 A. No.
 10 Q. She has a lawyer, the lawyer was
 11 experienced in OCY practice, isn't that true?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. The lawyer could have gone to OCY and
 14 said, written a letter and said, we want another
 15 caseworker based upon what you said that there
 16 was service neglect, isn't that true?
 17 A. She could.
 18 Q. She could have and she didn't, did she?
 19 A. I don't know.
 20 Q. Well, did you ever talk to her about it,
 21 and suggest to her that she petition for another
 22 caseworker?
 23 A. I told her to call the office, to put it
 24 into writing, the general --
 25 Q. Did she ever do that?

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1 MR. MCNAIR: Would you let her
 2 finish her answer.
 3 Q. What did she tell you?
 4 A. She told me that she did call and she did
 5 complain and she did ask for a new caseworker.
 6 Q. Did you consider yourself someone that
 7 had a good relationship with V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]?
 8 A. Somewhat.
 9 Q. Did you care about her?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Did you try to guide her and help her
 12 along the route to get a new caseworker?
 13 A. That wasn't my job.
 14 Q. Well, was it your job to be talking to
 15 Deanna Wilson about detention orders all over, at
 16 all the hospitals? Was it your job to do that?
 17 A. That is not -- you're taking what I said
 18 out of context.
 19 Q. What you said was, "I just spoke to
 20 V [REDACTED] last night, she was not in labor. Her
 21 attorney told V [REDACTED] that she has nothing to
 22 worry about when it comes to the unborn child.
 23 She told V [REDACTED] that we (OCY) cannot detain.
 24 V [REDACTED] is taking her attorney's advice, she is
 25 due any day. P [REDACTED] has detention letters at all

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1 the local hospitals. V [REDACTED] does not see this
 2 coming." That is what you told her, didn't you?
 3 A. The context of what I meant, I mean, that
 4 reads -- it reads a couple different ways. I
 5 would like to put it in the frame in which I
 6 meant it.

7 Q. What did you mean?

8 A. What I meant is that this caseworker had
 9 a snapshot of one part of this case in its
 10 entirety. This mother had no concept that her
 11 baby was going to be detained, that she was in
 12 any kind of trouble. She didn't see anything
 13 coming. She had no conflict. Whether or not she
 14 had parenting skills or any of that, she didn't
 15 have a caseworker. She didn't see anything that
 16 she was doing as wrong because she wasn't being
 17 directed in any way. So what I'm saying is this,
 18 it is in the context of exactly what was
 19 occurring at the time. The caseworker had not
 20 shown up for a quarter of a year.

21 Q. You didn't say that in there, did you?

22 A. I didn't have to. Deanna already knew
 23 that.

24 Q. How did she know that?

25 A. I told her that that the caseworker had

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1 not shown up.

2 Q. You told her. She had Lisa Copazinski,
 3 she had a lawyer, and she had you?

4 MR. MCNAIR: Are you trying to

5 convince her of something?

6 Q. No, I'm trying to get to the point here.
 7 And you know as you sit here today as you're
 8 explaining this e-mail about what you meant in
 9 that e-mail as you told Mr. Lane, you can read it
 10 any way you want. Why didn't you pick up the
 11 telephone and say what you, instead of putting
 12 that in the e-mail that said there were detention
 13 letters all over the place, she doesn't know what
 14 was coming, how did you know what Deanna Cosby
 15 was thinking at that point, especially after you
 16 asked her to help her?

17 A. I don't know what she was thinking.

18 MR. MCNAIR: Whoa. Is there a
 19 question there?

20 MR. JOYAL: Yes.

21 BY MR. JOYAL:

22 Q. How does she know what she was thinking,
 23 especially after that e-mail exchange, you had
 24 asked her to help her?

25 A. I define Deanna's help as talking to the

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1 attorney and giving the case to case management
 2 is what I thought. I know what you're trying to
 3 say, but that isn't what I meant.

4 Q. Ms. Conley, I'm not trying to say
 5 anything. What I'm trying to say is that you
 6 have authored e-mails and now what you're saying
 7 is that you knew what Deanna Cosby was trying to
 8 do and you just testified to me that you have no
 9 idea what she was thinking based on those
 10 e-mails, is that right?

11 MR. MCNAIR: Save it for your brief,
 12 will you?

13 Q. Is that right? Yes or no.

14 A. Can you say the question one more time?

15 Q. Are you telling me today as you sit here
 16 right now that you have no idea what Deanna Cosby
 17 was thinking at the time that you wrote that
 18 e-mail when you said to her --

19 A. I didn't have an idea of what she was
 20 thinking. She wanted to talk to Amy Jones about
 21 kinship placement. She was trying to give case
 22 management to a case that didn't have a
 23 caseworker.

24 Q. She was not qualified at that point or
 25 entitled to give case management to anybody, was

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1 she? Because she wasn't an employee, is that
 2 correct?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. And Lisa Copazinski from Project First
 5 Step had some experience, she could have
 6 intervened on behalf of Ms. W [REDACTED], did she do
 7 that to OCY?

8 A. I think -- I think. I'm not really
 9 positive.

10 Q. You're not positive and you could have,
 11 as an OCY worker, gone to one of your supervisors
 12 or anyone else, even outside the chain of
 13 command, say, talk to V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED], she is
 14 really concerned about no case manager, you could
 15 have done that, couldn't you?

16 A. It was common knowledge.

17 Q. Did you do that is my question?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. To whom?

20 A. To Pam Biroscak.

21 Q. When?

22 A. I don't remember the exact day.

23 Q. Before this or after this e-mail?

24 A. I believe before.

25 Q. You told Mr. Lane that Deanna Cosby could

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1 have found out things on goErie.com. What could
2 she have found out about anything that OCY was
3 doing confidentially about this case on
4 goErie.com?
5 A. That is not what I meant.
6 Q. What did you mean?
7 A. I meant when it came to the drowning of
8 the boy, that was in the newspaper, and when I
9 make reference to like letters to the editor,
10 that can be found on goErie.com.
11 Q. But none of the stuff about V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]
12 could have been found there?
13 A. The question he asked me was, I forgot
14 how he phrased it, but I was making reference to
15 the stuff about the child drowning on goErie.com.
16 Q. Then I didn't understand it. You said
17 you called the hotline?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. On the date that this incident with P [REDACTED]
20 W [REDACTED] occurred?
21 A. Or the day after. As soon as my
22 schedule, sometimes it goes really fast.
23 Q. The hotline is open 24 hours a day?
24 A. Yes, sir.
25 Q. And is it, and I don't know this for a

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1 fact, but does it not -- does not the hotline
2 also take reports of abuse? Can you use the
3 hotline to report a case of child abuse?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. When you called them, did you tell them
6 what you had seen?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. And did you tell them who had been the
9 perpetrator?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. And did you tell them that you thought it
12 was abuse?
13 A. No.
14 Q. What did you tell them?
15 A. I told them I didn't know what to do,
16 that it was a particularly odd situation, he
17 encouraged me to talk to the supervisor.
18 Q. He did not want to take a report from
19 you?
20 A. I think perhaps he did.
21 Q. He did take a report from you?
22 A. I think he took notes, yeah. I don't
23 know if it would -- I'm not sure.
24 Q. You yourself did not make a report of
25 child abuse to Ms. Deveney, did you?

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. You did. You called it child abuse.
3 A. I did not call it child abuse. I told
4 her she shoved the child by the face.
5 Q. And if your call to the hotline resulted
6 in this guy taking notes and --
7 MR. McNAIR: This is not in response
8 to any questions that I asked her.
9 MR. JOYAL: This is in follow up.
10 MR. McNAIR: I didn't ask her
11 anything about hotline or definition of abuse or
12 anything. If you have something in another vein,
13 I'm going to give you one chance to ask it.
14 Otherwise we're leaving.
15 BY MR. JOYAL:
16 Q. Have you received any, since September 12
17 of 2004, has anyone approached you and told you
18 that they felt that the term whistle-blower was a
19 derogatory term to you?
20 A. Has anyone approached me?
21 Q. Yeah, anybody told you they thought that
22 the term whistle-blower meant that you were not
23 being truthful in your claims concerning the
24 brokenness of the agency?
25 A. My phone rang off the hook when that

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1 story -- I received literally at least 100 phone
2 calls. I don't even know who it was from.
3 Q. You don't know who called you?
4 A. Some of the people, no.
5 Q. Did they --
6 MR. McNAIR: We're done. We're
7 done.
8 MR. LANE: I have a couple follow-up
9 questions. I have a couple follow-up questions.
10 MR. JOYAL: Ask them.
11 MR. LANE: Are you done? He's done.
12 MR. JOYAL: Yes.
13 MR. LANE: I want to ask a couple
14 follow-up questions.
15 MR. McNAIR: I'll tolerate it if
16 it's to the point. If it's not, we're out of
17 here.
18 EXAMINATION
19 BY MR. LANE:
20 Q. You said in response to Mr. McNair's
21 questioning that you believe that V [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]'s
22 attorney told her that there was going to be a
23 detention order. Do you remember saying that?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. But in Exhibit No. 3, you told Deanna

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1 Cosby that the attorney told V█████ that you
 2 could not detain, right?
 3 A. You're right.
 4 MR. McNAIR: Mischaracterizes what
 5 it is.
 6 Q. I am right, yes?
 7 A. Yes. You are correct.
 8 Q. Okay.
 9 A. I found out about the detention order
 10 being told to V█████ by her attorney, I believe
 11 through a conversation with Deanna Cosby who
 12 talked to Amy. Amy told Deanna that she had told
 13 V█████ that OCY was going to detain the baby.
 14 But at that particular time, what I was repeating
 15 is what V█████ told me. I have no way of knowing
 16 who said what to V█████. I am just repeating
 17 what V█████ said in that e-mail.
 18 Q. In response to Mr. McNair's questions,
 19 you indicated that junk mail is circulated on the
 20 e-mail system all the time?
 21 A. It's ridiculous.
 22 Q. Aside from you, not talking about you,
 23 other than Abby Conley, at OCY, do you know of
 24 anybody who communicated confidential case
 25 information to any third parties outside of OCY?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Who?
 3 A. I believe M█████ -- Sue Deveney through the
 4 e-mail. I'm sorry?
 5 Q. Through e-mail?
 6 A. I know Deanna received case information
 7 through the US Postal Service from Sue Deveney
 8 about, because when Deanna left, all of her cases
 9 were distributed on our unit to prospective
 10 caseworkers, and Sue had multiple questions about
 11 cases and was e-mailing Deanna back and forth.
 12 There was a lot of tension between Deanna and
 13 Sue. Sue approached me on it. Deanna didn't
 14 want to talk about cases anymore. Mike Cauley
 15 had also contacted her about case information,
 16 and Michelle Shetter as well.
 17 Q. Did you see the e-mails?
 18 A. No.
 19 Q. How do you know?
 20 A. Sue told me, asked me if I could provide
 21 her Deanna Cosby's e-mail in North Carolina
 22 because she had questions about the cases that
 23 she had left.
 24 Q. So Sue had questions for Deanna, right?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. What confidential information did you see
 2 that was communicated between Sue and Deanna?
 3 A. I didn't see anything.
 4 Q. So you don't know from first-hand
 5 knowledge of anything --
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. -- being communicated by anybody at OCY
 8 to a third party in terms of confidential
 9 information, right?
 10 MR. McNAIR: Object to the question
 11 as being overbroad, there not being a workable
 12 definition of what constitutes confidential
 13 information.
 14 BY MR. LANE:
 15 Q. Anything you consider confidential?
 16 A. I don't know what they sent to her.
 17 Q. So sitting here right now, you can't tell
 18 me about your first-hand observation of
 19 confidential information of OCY being
 20 communicated by an employee of OCY to a third
 21 party, right?
 22 A. I can only tell you about the
 23 confrontation.
 24 Q. I have one more question. You testified
 25 in response to Mr. McNair's questions that, I

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1 believe you said that Deanna Cosby could have
 2 obtained the information in any information you
 3 gave her through third parties or through the
 4 Internet, things like that, correct?
 5 MR. McNAIR: Objection.

6 Mischaracterizes the question and the answer.
 7 Q. Generally --
 8 A. I was talking, once again, it's the same
 9 thing he just asked me.

10 MR. McNAIR: The question was, did
 11 she disclose anything that Deanna Cosby didn't
 12 already know or wouldn't already know.
 13 Q. I'm going to show you Exhibit 31.

14 (Conley Deposition Exhibit 31
 15 was marked for identification.)

BY MR. LANE:

17 Q. Can you tell me what this is?
 18 A. (Witness reviews document.) This is a
 19 summary of my history with the county.
 20 Q. Did you prepare it?
 21 A. That was prepared by Anthony, him and I
 22 worked on this. I gave him information and he
 23 drafted this up.
 24 Q. When was it drafted?
 25 A. I don't know.

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1 Q. Do you know generally the time frame,
 2 what year?
 3 A. I would say 2004.
 4 Q. After September 10, 2004?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And why was it created?
 7 A. I don't know.
 8 Q. Was it ever submitted to anybody as your
 9 side of the story?
 10 A. I don't know.
 11 Q. Why in there, in your summary of all the
 12 events that had taken place, did you not mention
 13 one time that you had sent all these e-mails back
 14 and forth to Deanna Cosby if you didn't think
 15 there was anything wrong with it?
 16 A. Probably because I didn't think there was
 17 anything wrong with it.
 18 MR. LANE: That's all I have.
 19 Thanks.
 20 MR. McNAIR: She'll sign. She'll
 21 read.
 22 (Deposition concluded at 7:28
 23 o'clock p.m.)
 24 (Signature not waived.)
 25

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1 ABBY S. CONLEY)
 2 vs.)
 3 COUNTY OF ERIE, ERIE COUNTY OFFICE)
 4 OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH a/k/a ERIE)
 5 COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICE,)
 6 et al.)

----- CERTIFICATE

7 I, ABBY B. CONLEY, do hereby certify that
 8 I have read the foregoing transcript of my
 9 deposition, and it is a true and correct copy of
 10 my testimony, except for the changes, if any,
 11 made by me on the attached Deposition Correction
 12 Sheet.

ABBY B. CONLEY

(Date)

Notary Public

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1
 2
 3 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA)
 4 COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY)
 5
 6 I, Debra D. LaGamba, a registered Professional Reporter and a notary public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that the witness ABBY B. CONLEY, was by me first duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the foregoing deposition was taken at the time and place stated herein; and that the said deposition was recorded stenographically by me and then reduced to typewriting under my direction, and constitutes a true record of the testimony given by said witness, all to the best of my skill and ability.
 13 I further certify that the inspection, reading and signing of said deposition were not waived by counsel for the respective parties and by the witness.
 16 I further certify that I am not a relative, or employee of either counsel, and that I am in no way interested, directly or indirectly, in this action.
 18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office this 15th day of October, 2005.
 21
 22 Debra D. LaGamba
 23 Notary Public
 24 My Commission Expires September 3, 2006.
 25

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